

The Life & Times of the Arlington Hotel

By GREG NESTEROFF

It is a great shame that the Arlington Hotel no longer stands. An elegant three-storey structure with a balcony and tower, it was by far the most famous and most photographed building of Slocan City's heyday.

The Arlington's history dates to June 1892 when Thomas Mulvey and Billy Clements built the Lake View Hotel on the corner of Main St. and Lake Ave., near the wharf. The one-and-a-half storey structure was the first building of any note in Slocan, and boasted eight rooms. At some unknown point it was sold to Sam Whittaker and re-named the Cumberland.¹

In late February or early March 1896, it was again sold, this time to Cornelius (Neil) Gething and Robert George Henderson, who moved the existing building back and put an addition on the front.²

They seem to have made good use of local cedar — according to one account, a single tree "in the middle of town yielded ... 10,000 shakes which were used in building the hotel."³

The duo also received plaudits for shopping locally: "Finding it impossible to secure the lath necessary for the interior finish in any reasonable time they decided to make their own.

"Consequently they engaged a couple of expert shake makers who manufactured cedar lath by hand five miles down the river, and conveyed them up to town as fast as they could be utilized. This liberality of enterprise, besides hurrying the work in hand, has the desired effect of keeping money at home for circulation."⁴

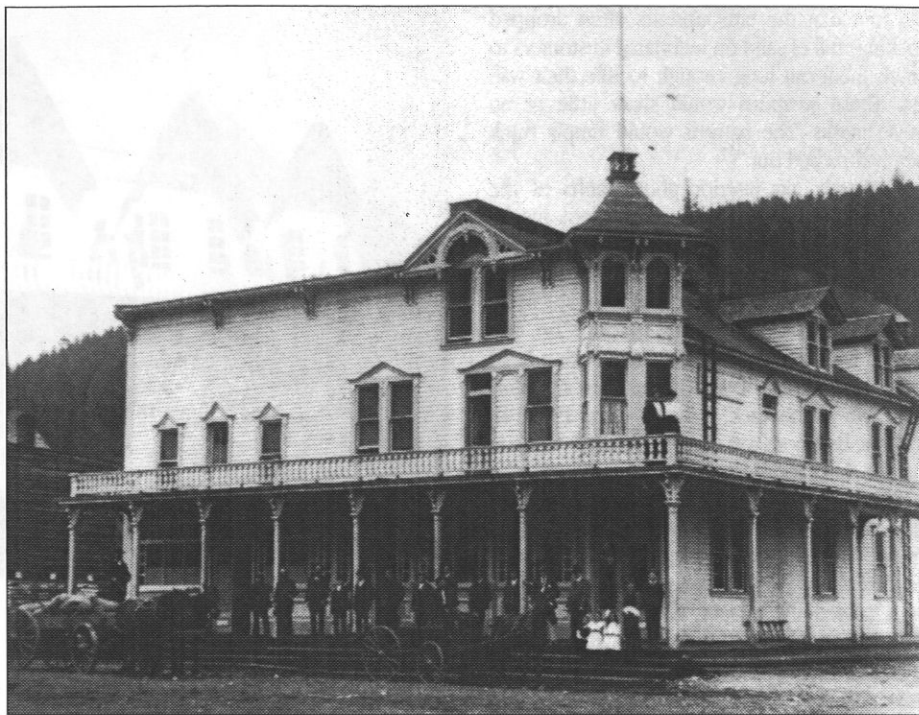
The hotel was re-named the Arlington, presumably after the nearby mine, although it was then a common name for a hotel. (There was and is an Arlington Hotel in Trail.)

When it opened on 1 Apr 1896, the New Denver *Ledge* wrote "Gething and Henderson are the proprietors, which fact assures its success."⁵

The pair had owned the Hotel Slocan in New Denver which burned down the previous year. The story is that Robert Covington was boarding there when the fire took place, and helped two women escape — one of whom was the then-pregnant Mrs. Gething.⁶

At first the Gethings lived in an apartment in the tower part of the Arlington, entered by way of an outside staircase.⁷ They moved to a cottage in West Slocan in the summer of 1901.⁸

Perhaps the greatest moment in the hotel's history occurred shortly after its first birthday. On 24 May 1897, as part of celebrations marking Queen Victoria's birthday, pioneer prospector Eli Carpenter agreed to walk a tightrope. As the



Slocan City News recounted:

"A stout hemp rope had been erected across Main St. from the Arlington Hotel to the second storey of the new building being put up by Cousins & Cavanah. After being properly braced and tested, [Carpenter] stepped forth from a window in the Arlington clad in tights.

"Carefully but surely he walked across the rope using a long piece of gas pipe for a balance pole, and thus retraced his steps backwards. Afterwards he performed on a trapeze suspended from the rope, while the spectators held their breath. There was no prize set aside for this performance, but the management had guaranteed Eli \$25. A collection taken up in the crowd soon gathered \$45."⁹

Carpenter's feat was recounted and embellished many times over the years.

On the opposite end of the scale, a chilling incident occurred in March 1903, when a guest was found dead in his room.

Joseph Trombley hadn't been seen in a day, so George Henderson went to check on him. He thought Trombley was asleep, but on closer inspection discovered the body was lifeless.

A coroner's jury was convened, and ruled that Trombley had taken an overdose of medicine, due to his inability to read the directions on the bottle. He was buried in the Slocan cemetery.¹⁰

Although it probably had nothing to do with the death, a month later Gething and Henderson leased the hotel to Larry M. Knowles and George Patrequin (or Patriquin). Knowles operated a hotel in Silverton which burned down.¹¹

The *Slocan Drill* reported: "The new proprietors are well known in the Slocan and should score a decided success in their new quarters. The building is being thoroughly renovated and everything put in first class shape. As in the past the bar will always be supplied with the best

wines, liquors, and cigars that can be obtained."¹²

(The restaurant had previously been leased separately: "The Misses Cusack have given up the dining room at the Arlington Hotel and gone back to Butte. The proprietors now have the whole hotel under their direct control."¹³)

Within four months, Patrequin dropped out of the partnership, but Knowles continued on until June 1904.¹⁴ At that point he apparently quit and applied to transfer the liquor license back to George Henderson.¹⁵

A few weeks later another proprietor was found, John W. Crow.¹⁶ Crow's stepson was Ed Graham, who would go on to become Slocan's postmaster, city clerk, and mayor, and have a school named after him.¹⁷

Crow was still running the hotel as of May 1905, but at that point the city lost its only newspaper, so further changes in management are hard to determine. We do know that Gething and Henderson continued to own the building.¹⁸

Gething, though, was out of the picture, having moved with his family to the Peace River district in 1907 to stake some coal mines.¹⁹ Between about 1910 and 1912, Henderson joined his partner there, but it's not clear if the hotel was closed or leased in the meantime.²⁰

Not much is known of the hotel staff either, aside from a story about how the bar girls made extra income. It's recounted by Irv Anderson, who heard it from Bob Manning, one of the last skippers of the S.S. *Minto*:

"[Manning's] first job on the lakes was that of a cabin boy on the S.S. *Slocan* to run errands for the Master. One early morning he was sent to the lobby of the Arlington to get some tobacco for the 'old man.' Before he got off the veranda he heard a plop behind him which seemed like a sack of something dropped from the upper balcony. He mentioned this to the 'old man' who

told him that the tarts upstairs often dropped stockings full of sand on inebriated customers to knock them out long enough to rifle their wallets. These weapons would show little or no bruise marks. The patrons would simply think they had passed out."²¹

Curiously, no interior photographs of the Arlington are known to exist. For a look inside, we are indebted to Dorothy Newton, who in 1997 described her recollections to Innes Cooper of the Slocan City Historical Group.

She remembered double doors on the ground floor leading to the saloon, with a large dining area behind it, and the kitchen and storage room at the back. By then (circa 1910-14), only one bedroom was used on the second floor, and the third floor was empty.

The Arlington — and Slocan in general — had fallen on hard times. In his memoir, H.M. Walker wrote: "For a few years the hotel made money for the proprietors. Then a wise provincial government passed the looking glass, pillow-slip, lip-stick law regulating bunkhouses and working conditions in the mines, and the mines closed down because, they claimed, they could not operate under the new regulations."²²

For the next 30 years, the hotel operated sporadically, if at all. While it was listed in Wrigley's Directory through 1928, there were no ads for it in the *Slocan Enterprise* from the mid-1920s to early 1930s.

On 30 Nov 1934, George Henderson was found dead in his shack, two days after going missing. He was 74.²³ It was rumored that he had been poisoned by his daughter-in-law in a bid to gain access to whatever he owned.²⁴ Police investigated,²⁵ but no charges were laid.

Henderson's obituary noted "the Arling (sic) hotel, since thrown into disuse, still stands as a landmark in Slocan ... For years Mr. Henderson operated the hostelry but of late it has been closed with the mining slump in that area."²⁶

The hotel still belonged to Gething and the estate of Henderson as of 1939, but then the city somehow took possession of it, and sold it to John Graham.²⁷

From 1942-45, the now-dilapidated Arlington became home to Japanese-Canadians evicted from their Lower Mainland homes and forced into internment camps.

Among them was science broadcaster David Suzuki, who wrote in his autobiography:

"We were among the first contingent to arrive in Slocan City and got to live in the hotel closest to the lake. We had a small room on the second floor at the back of the building. It must have been a grand building in its day — a large porch ran all the way around it, while columns supported a similar porch above it. But the boards of the porches were so weathered and rotten that we weren't allowed to run around on them ... Our building was filthy and cramped ... We quickly took it for granted that in the morning we would wake up covered in bedbug bites."²⁸

The arrangements made by the B.C. Security Commission for the hotel's use are not known.



The Arlington changed hands a few more times after the end of the war. Graham is listed on the tax assessments as the owner through 1946, and then his wife's name appears for 1947. The records for 1948-49 are missing.²⁹

On 30 Sept 1950, T.A. Thompson purchased the hotel through a tax sale, but two years later it reverted back to the city. Shortly thereafter, it fell into the clutches of the Columbia and Kootenay Railway, and its days were numbered.³⁰

Apparently the trainmen hated it, because its location on a bend meant they could not relay hand signals without using a third person.³¹

In the fall of 1952, it was demolished by Fred Lindstrom and Bill Gertz, a sad ending for a hotel that deserved a much better fate.³²

The *Nelson Daily News* wrote: "Many an old-timer can recall this hotel in its heyday at the turn of the century, when one could spend a pretty enjoyable evening for only \$1, visiting in the pub. The building has been unoccupied and in a state of disrepair for several years."³³

The property was combed over by coin enthusiasts. By the time historian Bill Barlee sifted through it in the late '60s, there was not much left to find.³⁴

The two lots where the Arlington Hotel once stood are still vacant today and belong to Thomas and Patricia Brach of South Slocan.

NOTES

1. *Slocan Pioneer*, 1 May 1897

2. *The Ledge*, 5 Mar 1896

3. *Slocan History*, Mary Hird, 1961

4. *Slocan Pioneer*, 1 May 1897

5. *The Ledge*, 2 Apr 1896

6. Interview with Catherine O'Neil, Turnbull fonds, Selkirk College Regional Archives, Box 7, File 7. No story on the fire can be found in *The Ledge*, although some issues are missing. The Hotel Slocan was still standing as of 20 June 1895, when Gething's wedding was reported. According to *New Denver: Eldorado of the Past*, p. 4, the hotel did not burn down until 1901. This booklet actually lists Gething and Henderson as

co-owners of a different, nameless hotel which was "first made of logs and then of shakes and [at] last ... of lumber."

7. Interview with Catherine O'Neil. She said the Hendersons lived in a separate apartment.

8. *Slocan Drill*, 19 Jul 1901 and 9 Aug 1901

9. *Slocan City News*, 29 May 1897

10. *Slocan Drill*, 6 Mar 1903

11. *Slocan Drill*, 28 Nov 1902

12. *Slocan Drill*, 17 Apr 1903

13. *Slocan Drill*, 18 Jul 1902

14. Based on advertisements in the *Slocan Drill*, 31 Jul 1903, and 10 Jun 1904

15. *Slocan Drill*, 1 Jul 1904

16. Ibid.

17. Slocan memoir, Denis St. Denis, 1958

18. City of Slocan tax rolls 1902-23 and 1933-53, held by Selkirk College Regional Archives. It is not hard to find the hotel — its legal description (Block A, Lots 1 and 2) puts it at the very top.

19. www.hhcn.prn.bc.ca/district/people/pioneers/pioneer.html. Production on Gething's mines did not begin in earnest until 1919, but they then operated until the W.A.C. Bennett dam was built. Gething died in Hudson's Hope on 31 Dec 1950 at age 80, and is regarded as a pioneer of that community.

20. *Nelson Daily News*, 30 Nov 1934

21. E-mail from Irv Anderson, 20 Jan 2002

22. *Vancouver Province*, 29 Dec 1934

23. *Nelson Daily News*, 30 Nov 1934

24. E-mail from Innes Cooper, 11 Jan 2002

25. *Nelson Daily News*, 30 Nov 1934

26. Ibid.

27. City of Slocan tax rolls

28. *Metamorphosis*, David Suzuki, 1987, p. 63

29. City of Slocan tax rolls

30. Ibid.

31. E-mail from Irv Anderson, 20 Jan 2002. This was also confirmed by Innes Cooper.

32. *Nelson Daily News*, 8 Nov 1952

33. Ibid.

34. Conversation with Bill Barlee, 19 Dec 2001

Thanks to Irv Anderson and Innes Cooper

Notes on the Arlington Hotel

● The Ledge, 20 Jun 1895: "Wednesday last a popular wedding took place at Pilot Bay, the contracting parties being Neil M. Gething of Gething and Henderson, of the Hotel Slocan in this town, and Miss L.E. Burnstead of Nelson, but formerly of New Denver. Etc., etc."

● The Ledge, 29 Aug 1895: First (?) advertisement for Cumberland Hotel, Sam Whittaker prop. Little story about it too. More on 26 Sept 1895.

● The Ledge, 5 Mar 1896: "Henderson and Gething have purchased the Cumberland Hotel at Slocan City from Sam Whittaker. The present building will be moved back and a new addition built on the site."

● The Arlington Hotel opened 1 Apr 1896. (Based on ad in 2 Apr 1896 Ledge.) Gething & Henderson, Prop. Did the addition really go up that fast, or was it still under construction?

● Arlington presumably after the nearby mine of that name, although it was a common name for a hotel. There was and is an Arlington Hotel in Trail.

● The Ledge, 2 Apr 1896: "The Arlington Hotel opened this week. Messrs. Gething and Henderson are the proprietors, which fact assures its success." First ad appears.

● The Slocan Pioneer, 1 May 1897: "The present site of Slocan city offered such a convenient resting place that few of the parties who made the difficult 32 mile voyage up the shallow river failed to camp here for a week or longer before continuing their journey. These sturdy adventurers naturally did more or less prospecting, but the grantie formation which they encountered on all sides seemed to discourage the idea of the quartz containing anything of value. "BUILDING THE FIRST HOTEL
"Among the prominent business men of Slocan who passed this point without considering its possible future are R.G. Henderson and Thomas Mulvey the pioneer hotel men.
"The latter with his partner W.R. Clements built the old Lake View Hotel, a story-and-a-half log structure on the site now occupied by the Arlington, in June 1892. The original building like a poor relation was subsequently relegated to

ARLINGTON HOTEL,

J. W. Crow, Proprietor.

THIS Hotel is one of the best known and most popular houses in the country. It is located adjacent to the depot and the wharf, and commands a magnificent view of the beautiful Slocan lake. Good fishing is to be found close at hand, while every facility is offered for boating.

Tourists will find the Arlington an ideal resting place.

Commercial men have at their command new and commodious sample rooms.

The dining room is strictly up to date and the bar supplied with only the best brands of goods.

MAIN STREET,

SLOCAN, B. C.

the rear and now stands in the shadow of the three story modern structure that has replaced it and is only allowed a few brief hours each day to bask in the sunshine that was once all its own. For four years the Lake View, or, as it was later called the Cumberland, which boasted of 8 rooms, or, properly speaking, 'bunks' was the only building on the prettiest townsite in B.C. It may be despised by the pilgrims of today; but it has friends among the hardy pioneers of other days who never tire of the stories of the hospitality and good cheer that it sheltered. Inseparately connected with it are the names of Mulvey and Clements. They never made any pretence of running a 'first class' house. They paid 10 cents a pound for all provisions from Slocan Crossing, and the table was provided with an abundance of game of all kinds, for which they charged 75 cents a meal - if you had it. If you didn't, you were welcome to the meal and got the glad hand just the same.
"When the Lake View changed its name to the Cumberland was when Sam Whittaker bought it [*Innes Cooper's note: Now I am not sure just how he came to own the hotel, it was likely that he bought it but there is noting to prove this.*]
"Henderson and Gething in crowding the construction of their new Arlington hotel have shown a commendable enterprise in establishing an incidental home industry. Finding it impossible to secure the lath necessary for the interior finish in any reasonable time they decided to make their own.
"Consequently they engaged a couple of expert shake makers who manufactured cedar lath by hand five miles down the river, and conveyed them up to town as fast as they could be utilized. This liberality of enterprise besides hurrying the work in hand has the desired effect of keeping money at home for circulation.

The example of Messrs and Henderson and Gething is deserving of [rest is unreadable]"

● Site of Eli Carpenter's tightrope walk of 24 May 1897.

● The Drill, 20 Jul 1900: George Henderson marries Cora Stanton in Nelson

● The Drill, 28 Sept 1900, p. 4: False alarm at the Arlington.

● The Drill, 19 Feb 1901, p. 1: "There was almost another blaze at the Arlington Hotel on Tuesday evening. The hanging lamp in the parlor got out of order and some surface oil took fire, dropping on to the center table and carpet. When noticed there was a nice little blaze developing and the room was full of smoke. Men around the house swamped out the fire before any damage was done."

● The Drill, 21 Jun 1901: Son born to Hendersons (Jun 15)

● The Drill, 19 Jul 1901: "Neil Gething is erecting a neat cottage on the river bank in West Slocan."

● The Drill, 9 Aug 1901: "Neil Gething's cottage is almost completed."

● Sale of government lots at Lemon Creek townsite held at the hotel, 11 Sept 1901.

● The Drill, 13 Jun 1902: "The Arlington Hqtel is undergoing a treatment of paint."

● The Drill, 18 Jul 1902: "The Misses Cusack have given up the dining room at the Arlington Hotel and gone back to

Butte. The proprietors now have the whole hotel under their direct control."

- The Drill, 29 Aug 1902, 10 Oct 1902, 17 Oct 1902 – Gething writes to Henderson from Fort George.

- The Drill, 31 Oct 1902 – Gething back home from the north.

- The Drill, 10 Oct 1902: (Not sure if this refers to the hotel or the mine) "A man with a lantern cleaning the chimney on the Arlington kitchen the other night caused some parties to imagine a new planet had made its appearance in the heaven. Great excitement prevailed for a while. The expose came with a sickening suddenness."

- The Drill, 28 Nov 1902: Larry Knowles's hotel in Silverton destroyed by fire.

- The Drill, 10 Jan 1903: "A practice alarm was turned in Friday from the Arlington Hotel and the fire brigade got there on the double quick."

- The Drill, 6 Mar 1903 "SLEPT HIS LIFE AWAY. Joseph Trombley makes a fatal mistake with medicine. The city received a sudden shock on Friday afternoon by the information that Joseph Trombley had been found dead in his room at the Arlington Hotel. The discovery had been made by George Henderson, one of the proprietors, who had gone upstairs to ascertain why Trombley had not come down to his meals. Receiving no answer to his summons, he entered the room and found the man in a perfectly natural position and apparently asleep, but upon going closer was horrified to find him dead. Word was at once sent up to Dr. Forin, coroner, who immediately summoned a jury to make an official inquiry into the cause of the death. "The jury — composed of J. Nathan, L.J. Edwards, A.C. Smith, H. Guest, D.S. McVannel, and C.E. Smitheringale, foreman — met in the city hall at 4:30 and heard the evidence of M. Lavell, Geo. Henderson, Pat McGuire, J.A. Anderson and Dr. Bentley. From the several statements it was learned deceased had two months before been given a strong medicine to quiet his nerves and induce sleep, with strict injunctions (sic) that he should not have the bottle, but that the medicine should be administered to him every hour. After recovery, Trombley somehow obtained possession of the bottle and kept it at the Windsor Hotel for further use. On Wednesday night of last week, he again had occasion to use the medicine and was seen to take a dose afterwards proven to be four times the allotted amount. The next day and evening he passed in and out of the Windsor and Arlington hotels a number of

Ownership of the Arlington Hotel

1896-1923

Neil Gething & George Henderson

1924-32

Tax rolls missing

1933-36

Gething & Henderson

1937-39

Gething & Henderson (estate)

1940

City of Slocan

1941-46

John Graham

1947

Mrs. John Graham

1948-49

Tax rolls missing

1950-51

T.A. Thompson

1952

City of Slocan

1953

Columbia & Kootenay Railway

Source: Slocan tax assessments 1901-53, held by Selkirk College Archives.

times and the last seen of him alive was at 12:30 Thursday night, when he wept upstairs to bed, stating he was pretty sleepy.

"From the further statements of the druggist who put up the medicine and the physicians, it is evident Trombley, who was unable to read and so follow the directions on the label, had partaken too often and too much of the medicine, which contained chloral and other powerful drugs, and had fallen into a sleep from which there was no awakening. And such was the conclusion arrived at by the jury, whose verdict was that deceased had come to his death 'through taking in ignorance, an overdose of medicine, taken to quiet his nerves and induce sleep; he being unable to read written English, was not in a position to follow the directions on the bottle, said medicine having been prescribed for and administered to deceased two months previously while in a similar condition.' "Deceased was buried on Sunday afternoon, from the undertaking establishment of D.D. Robertson. The remains were escorted to the cemetery by the Miners Union, of which the deceased was a member, and a large following of citizens, Rev. Father Cote officiating at the grave. Trombley was an old country Frenchman, about 28 or 30 years of age, and a carpenter of more than ordinary

ability. He was well known here."

According to police notebook in Selkirk archives, he stayed in room 6.

- Drill, 17 Apr 1903:

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

The Arlington Hotel, conducted by Gething and Henderson, has been taken over by Knowles and Patrequin, formerly of Silverton. The new proprietors are well known in the Slocan and should score a decided success in their new quarters. The building is being thoroughly renovated and everything put in first class shape. As in the past the bar will always be supplied with the best wines, liquors, and cigars that can be obtained. The travelling public especially will find the Arlington all that could be desired. It is convenient to the steamboat wharf and railway station and the dining room will be found to have few if any equals in the country."

- Drill, 1 Jul 1904: Includes legal ad announcing that Knowles intends to transfer the hotel's liquor license back to George Henderson. The hotel's legal description is given as as lots 1 and 2, block A.

- The Drill, 5 Feb 1904: Sample rooms \$2.50 per day, board \$8 per week, meals 35 cents.

- The Arlington advertised in every issue of The Drill, and through those ads we can trace its management: Gething & Henderson proprietors until 10 Apr 1903. Beginning with 17 Apr 1903 Knowles and Patrequin. Beginning 31 Jul 1903 just L.M. Knowles. Beginning 10 Jun 1904 none listed. Beginning 1 Jul 1904 J.W. Crow. Stays that way until the paper folds in May 1905.

- Slocan Mining Review, 18 Oct 1906: Gething and Henderson take lease of Meteor mine.

- Slocan Mining Review, 15 Nov 1906: Daughter born to Gething.

- Ledge, May 2, 1907: "Neil Gething will leave for the north about June."

- Cornelius Morgan Gething d. 31 Dec 1950 in Hudson's Hope at 80. He was involved in the coal mining industry there. George Henderson d. 28 Nov 1934 in West Slocan at 74. I can find no death record for Cora L. Henderson, nor Knowles, nor Patrequin (can't even find Patrequin's first name – note vital events database has a girl with last name Patriguin born in Silverton in 1901).

- According to Nelson cemetery database: Cora Henderson - General 2, Grave 174, Date of Death - 27/08/1920 - 44 years. George Henderson - General 2,

Grave 173 - Date of Death- 01/12/1934
- no age given.

● Nelson Daily News, 30 Nov 1934:
"SLOCAN TRAIL BLAZER DIES. Robert Henderson is found dead in his "home, Slocan. In the town which he witnessed rise and wane with the tide of fortune, and from where he watched the growth of the now prosperous Kootenay country, Slocan City, Robert George Henderson, a real trail blazer, was found dead in his shack early Thursday by Edward Graham. Mr. Henderson had been missing two days before found, having died Tuesday afternoon. Dr. A. Francis and Provincial Constable Frank Broughton of New Denver went to Slocan City to investigate the circumstances of his death.

"Mr. Henderson was of Irish parentage and was born in Stayner, Ont. Coming west when the district was in its first throes of settlement, he landed in New Denver 48 years ago, having spent two years here and there, in the province before settling down.

"He made his way up to the Slocan mining camp by canoe before the days of the road, encountering many difficulties with rapids and jams. At New Denver he built the first structure in the camp, a log hotel. This building later burned down and he moved to Slocan City.

"The Arling (sic) hotel, since thrown into disuse, but which still stands as a landmark in the Slocan town, built by Mr. Henderson, was the first large building in the town. For years Mr. Henderson operated the hostelry but of late it has been closed with the mining slump in that area.

"Between 1910 and 1912 he resided in the Peace River, then at the peak of a boom, and was associated in timber and coal deals. During his stay in the Slocan he took an active part in mining.

"Mr. Henderson was married to Corra Stanton of Portland, Ore. in Slocan City. "Mrs. Henderson was buried in Nelson and Mr. Henderson will also be buried here.

"He leaves a son, George of Nelson, and two daughters in the United States, Mrs. Cassity of Salt Lake City, and Mrs. M. Dubor of Seattle.

● No interior photos or blueprints known to exist, but Innes Cooper sketched out a basic floor plan based on the recollections of a woman who used to play in the hotel as a young girl.

● 1901 Henderson Directory gives Henderson & Gething as prop. According to Wrigley's Directory for 1921, Geo. Henderson still ran it. Same for 1928.

● According to Catherine O'Neail, when interviewed by Elsie Turnbull: "The Arlington was the best hotel [among the many in Slocan]. It was built by Neil

THE
Arlington Hotel
IS NOW OPEN TO
THE WORLD
—AND—
READY TO ACCOMMODATE
MINING MEN
—AND—
CAPITALISTS.
GETHING & HENDERSON,
SLOCAN CITY.

Advertisement from *The Ledge*, 6 May 1896

Gething and George Henderson. Gething had owned a hotel in New Denver which burned in 1895. Mr. Covington was boarding there when the fire took place and he helped get two women out by way of windows — one was Mrs. Gething who was pregnant. The Gethings then came to Slocan City and built the Arlington. The Gethings and the Hendersons lived in two apartments in the tower part of the hotel with an entrance by way of an outside stairway. It was entirely built of cedar and had lovely floors. Many dances were held there which Mrs. O'Neail attended. Gethings left Slocan City in 1905 and went up north. Henderson died shortly after and Mrs. Henderson kept on at the hotel and raised her two girls and one boy. Times were hard and business fell off. She became ill and died later ... Mrs. O'Neail helped Mrs. Henderson. About 1908 or 10 the hotel closed down and stayed deserted for years. It was wrecked by vandals and robbed but was not torn down until sometime in the 1950s. [In 1903 the Arlington was run by Knowles and Patrequin.]

● E-mail from Innes Cooper, 11 Jan

2002: "Robert George Henderson the father married Cora Stanton in Slocan City 18 July 1900. She was 24 years of age and he was 37. She died at Slocan around 27 Aug 1920, and was buried in Nelson. Henderson lived for a long time afterwards. He and his son were in the logging business. One of Mrs. Henderson's sisters lived in Nelson — a Mrs. J. McKay. She had another sister, Mrs. Ellis. They had two daughters, Muriel and I can't remember the name of the other one. He had a brother Walter who lived in Saskatoon. He was found dead at home (West Slocan I think) 30 Nov 1934. The funeral was in Nelson. "It was his son George who married Vallia. Prior to that Kurt Zimmermann married her and brought her to Slocan from Spokane. When she had got everything she could out of Kurt she left him and according to Dorothy Newton (who knew them all) married George. I believe her name prior to all this was Henning. The last I have of her is that she lived in Vancouver and had disposed of all goods and property at Slocan. That was Oct 18 1939. "When Francis Hicks was doing the histo-

- Used to house Japanese-Canadians during the internment years. On p. 63 of his autobiography, *Metamorphosis*, David Suzuki writes: “We were among the first contingent to arrive in Slocan City and got to live in the hotel closest to the lake. We had a small room on the second floor at the back of the building. It must have been a grand building in its day — a large porch ran all the way around it, while columns supported a similar porch above it. But the boards of the porches were so weathered and rotten that we weren’t allowed to run around on them ... Our building was filthy and cramped. Women shared the cooking facilities and there

STAIRS

BEDROOM

HALLWAY

BATH

BEDROOM

- In a conversation 19 Dec 2001, Bill

Barlee, told me he recovered very little from the site of the Arlington — someone had beat him to it. He had better luck across the street, where he recovered 75 to 100 coins. This was in the late '60s or early '70s.

● Notes received from Innes Cooper, 22 Dec 2001: "The Arlington hotel is not the first hotel in place where it was built. Sometime in 1891 or likely 1892 the first hotel in Slocan was built of logs and it was called the Lakeview. It was built by Mulvey and Clements. Later on it was sold to Samuel Whittiker and he named it the Cumberland. It was moved to the back of the Arlington (south side) when they built that hotel ... The Arlington itself was leased to others over the years to run but seemed to come back to Henderson ... The death of Henderson has been something of a mystery, dealing with his son George and the wife that he picked up and brought to Slocan from the U.S.A. It is said she poisoned Henderson, if you ever get to look at police records in Nelson maybe there would be something on this ... Neil Gething and his family were living in West Slocan in 1901 for sure but likely before that. They lived next door to my grandparents."

● Notes from Innes Cooper, Jan 2002: "The old Arlington picture is held at the B.C. Archives in Victoria. I never got a copy, maybe in the late spring when I go there I will get one. I'm think that until his death in 1934 Henderson owned the hotel, then I would imagine it passed on to his son George Henderson, who was living at Slocan at that time. Young George at the time was married to a Vallia (nee Henning). The only note I have of her is that she disposed of property and goods at Slocan Oct 18 1939. At the time she was living in Vancouver. The Japanese lived in the hotel from 1942 to 1945 and maybe it was owned by the B.C. Security Commission. At the very least it had to be rented from someone for the Japanese to live in it and maybe there are records of the B.C. Sec. Comm. somewhere. As I understand it (and I am not sure of this information) the CPR bought the hotel and had it taken down. Also I'm not sure of the reason except it seems to me that the trainmen wanted a better view of the track and the hotel blocked that. I'm not sure that any of the information that I have given you is totally correct ... It would be very interesting to know if any documents, files, etc exist from the B.C. Security Commission. It was a federal commission."

● E-mail from Innes Cooper, 27 Jan 2002: "John Graham owned what was known as the Hall place up in the Little Slocan. Nelson Daily News 24 Aug 1926: Exchanged fruit ranch at Mirror Lake for the Hall property in the Little Slocan. He lived at this time at Perrys Siding. Came to

Slocan to live sometime in the early 1940s. I know one of the daughters married John Avis and was a school teacher. Around 2 Oct 1943 he died at the age of 73. He was married in Dec 1902 and I think they had more children but I'm not sure. After her husband died she moved but I don't know off hand where she went. I have no idea who T.A. Thompson is."

● Picture of the Arlington near the end of its life is on p. 1 of *Ghost Towns & Drowned Towns of West Kootenay* from provincial archives?

● Another picture of the hotel past its prime is in West Kootenay: Ghost Town Country (City of Vancouver archives 1394).

● If the Arlington was still in business in the mid-20s to early-30s it did not advertise in the *Slocan Enterprise*. The Hotel Slocan (run by H.L. Fife) and Two Friends did, however.

● B.C. securities commission records? Arlington & Popoff. Judy Murakami in New Denver.

● E-mail from Irv Anderson, 20 Jan 2002: "As related to me by Bob Manning, one of the last CPR skippers of the Minto. Says his first job on the lakes was that of a cabin boy on the SS Slocan to run errands for the Master. One early morning he was sent to the lobby of the Arlington to get some tobacco for the 'old man.' Before he got off the veranda he heard a plop behind him which seemed like a sack of something dropped from the upper balcony. He mentioned this to the 'old man' who told him that the tarts upstairs often dropped stockings full of sand on inebriated customers to knock them out long enough to rifle their wallets. These weapons would show little or no bruise marks. The patrons would simply think they had passed out. "It is my understanding that the building was removed after the CPR acquired the property. The trainmen hated it since located as it was on a bend they could not relay hand signals without using another person."

From : "Ronald Greene" <ragreene@coastnet.com>
To : "Greg Nesteroff" <greg32777@hotmail.com>
Subject : Re: Slocan City token?
Date : Sat, 5 Jan 2002 09:31:18 -0800

Strange that you should ask about that hotel and that token. We were discussing it only about 2 days ago as there is a token reported recently but I have not seen it and the report came from a person I'm told keeps "everything close to the vest" so I don't where the alleged token might be, what it looks like, or anything.

I would certainly be interested in seeing a late draft of your article when it is done, in case the token does show up.

Thanks,
Ron

— Original Message —
From: "Greg Nesteroff" <greg32777@hotmail.com>
To: <ragreene@coastnet.com>
Sent: Saturday, Jan 05, 2002 9:15 AM
Subject: Slocan City token?

Hi Ron,

Hoping you could answer a question for me, since I don't have access to any of the standard numismatic literature. Were any tokens ever issued by the Arlington Hotel in Slocan City? I'm trying to write a life-and-times of that famous building.

Thanks,
Greg

To : "Greg Nesteroff"
Subject : Re: Slocan City token?
Date : Sat, 5 Jan 2002 15:47:14 -0800

In the BC Archives, GR0093 refers to Liquor licensing (for hotels). The records are partial, 1900 and some other records c. 1910. Vol 15, p. 57 there was a license issued to Gething & Henderson for the Arlington, August 22, 1900. As this was "mid" licence period I think one might infer that this was a new licence. The legislation of 1899 was apparently disallowed by Ottawa due to its racial limitations and reinacted in 1900 with some different approaches that effectively eliminated asians from having licenses without saying so. Ron

From: Thomas Brach
<tbrach@netidea.com>
To : <greg32777@hotmail.com>
Subject : Arlington hotel article
Date : Sun, 27 Jan 2002 23:27:20 -0800

Hi Greg,

Justin passed on the Arlington article to me. Read it with great interest. Noticed an email at the end asking about a token associated with the hotel. You may want to approach George or Lou Coletti in Nelson. George used to own the antique store on Main Street, now owned by his son Lou. Both of them are quite knowledgeable about the area and have a collection of tokens, etc. Good luck.

Thomas Brach
Kokanee Systems Software Inc.