

The Early Tokens of Cranbrook, B.C.

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Introduction

Cranbrook today is one of the leading cities in the East Kootenays, in south-east British Columbia. It was established in 1898 when the Crow's Nest Railway, a subsidiary of the C.P.R., decided not to run a line into Fort Steele. They were undoubtedly influenced by the offer of free land by Colonel James Baker who owned an estate of some 18,000 acres in the valley south-west of Fort Steele. Baker, who was a one time provincial Minister of Education, called his estate Cranbrook Farm from the town of Cranbrook in Kent from where he came. It became a divisional point for the railway and over the next dozen years it completely supplanted Fort Steele as the centre of the region. The City of Cranbrook was incorporated in 1905 and one hundred years later it has a population of about 18,500 and services a region of some 34,000 people.



Cranbrook is in the south-east corner of British Columbia (East Kootenays) ↑

The order of this presentation will proceed from the earliest issues grouping related pieces, starting with the hotels, most of which were built in 1898 in the first few months of Cranbrook's existence. We have not included any of the plastic tokens issued since the end of World War II, although the issuers are mentioned in the Appendix.

Catalogue numbers used are based on the BC Token database, which in turn is based on Leslie C. Hill's 1980 *British Columbia Numismatica Part I featuring Trade Tokens* although the database has 2,000+ more listings than the 1980 work.

Commercial Hotel, K. & W.

1898 - 1899



C7510a

B:R:21 mm

W.T. Kaake and his partner O.B. Williams arrived in March 1898 from Trail, B.C. where they were in the contracting and building supply business. Mr. Kaake was an architect and millwright who had wide experience around the world, in Idaho and Colorado. He was the contractor for the Fort Steele Brewery Company plant in Fort Steele. Under the name of W.T. Kaake & Co., Kaake & Williams established a store selling groceries, provisions, etc., in G.H. Miner's store, but within months they had sold that business to Cranbrook Trading Company. By the end of May 1898 they had a new hotel building under construction which opened as the Commercial Hotel by the end of July 1898, containing 18 bedrooms, two parlours, a bar, a spacious dining-room, a billiard room, two card rooms, and an office. The total cost was \$3,000.

In March of 1899 Kaake was building another hotel and by April Williams had bought an interest in the Fort Steele Brewing Company. By May of that year, the Joyce Brothers had leased the Commercial Hotel. There is mention later that Mr. Kaake had departed for Dawson City. In September, Williams sold his interest in the brewery to his partner and left for Dawson City to join Mr. Kaake. An October report from Trail stated "Messrs Kaake and Williams have determined to close out their hardware business at Trail and devote their entire attention to other pursuits, principally mining. They have extensive interests in the Big Bend, north of Revelstoke, where placer mines have recently been discovered."¹ However, in January 1900 Mr. Kaake was the proprietor of the Commercial Hotel in Phoenix, B.C.

In May 1900 the lease for the Commercial hotel in Cranbrook was sold to Julius Hurel and Thomas Wellman who changed the name to the Manitoba Hotel. They split up four months later and Tom Wellman continued on in the Manitoba Hotel.

Thus we have a token that could have been issued only between August 1898 and May 1899 and probably was not used beyond the Joyce Brothers taking over in May 1899. Mr. Kaake seems to have been an outstanding example of a transient entrepreneur, always looking for a better opportunity.

Canadian Hotel

1900 - 1929



C7310b

A:R:25

McColl Sale #252

The Canadian Hotel and the Cosmopolitan Hotel tokens were the only Cranbrook pieces listed in the McColl Sale of 1903.



A June 16, 1910 ad.

Joseph Brault and the Canadian Hotel were first mentioned in the Cranbrook Herald in February 1900 when he applied for a liquor license for the hotel. Born in Quebec, Brault had spent a few years in Manitoba before coming to B.C. In April 1902 he built an addition which almost doubled the size of the hotel. In September 1903 Chas. P. Campbell built a large building next door to be used as a bowling alley and shooting gallery. This appeared to fail almost immediately and Brault salvaged the material from the building to build a large stable for the hotel – since horses were still the main conveyance in those days. In 1903 he started construction of an addition that brought the hotel’s capacity to over 50 bedrooms.

Mr. Brault did not get much mention in the newspapers over the next dozen years. His first wife died in 1913. In August 1915 he donated ten razors to the collection being gathered by the local hardware men for the troops overseas.

Prohibition came on October 1, 1917, and the Braults, Joseph and his son Wilfred, were among those found having booze illegally on the premises. They were fined \$200 and \$50 respectively. However, he must have operated fairly “cleanly” for his was one of the first five hotels allowed a beer license after Prohibition was lifted. For many years the restaurant was leased out.

A son, J.W. “Pete” Brault, was admitted to the bar in 1926 and opened a practice in Kimberley. Joseph Brault ran the Canadian Hotel until 1929 when Charles Zilli took over. Joe Brault and his wife moved to Spokane, hoping that the move would be beneficial to his health. The hotel was operating into the 1950’s, although under a different name for the last few years.

Cosmopolitan Hotel

1899 - c. 1917



C7560b A:Sc:28½
 McColl Sale #253



The Cosmopolitan Hotel was another of the long-lived Cranbrook hotels. It was opened in March 1899 by E.H. Small and J.E. Musgrave. In the first year the newspaper was high in the praise of the hotel's dining-room. In January 1900 the hotel took over the remaining parts of the building to enlarge the kitchen and dining-room and convert the old bar into an office and writing room. With the enlarged dining-room the Cosmopolitan started catering to Sunday night family dinners, with Prof. Fred Shaw at the piano. If J.E. Musgrave's departure was mentioned in the newspaper then it was missed, but in May 1900 he wrote from his home in Michigan saying that he was to meet Fred Simpson at Cape Nome. He had taken a holiday in April 1899 in North Dakota and Michigan and was married while there, but his wife was said not to be in very good health and didn't come out to Cranbrook when Musgrave returned in mid-June. Eneas "Enie" Small carried on alone for the next year, and in April 1901 he renovated the hotel. Buildings constructed with raw lumber often needed renovations because as the wood dried out it shrank, which led to all sorts of problems with the structure.

Although there is no mention of the hotel closing, in November 1901 J.R. Downes leased the Cosmopolitan and was to reopen it on December 1st. Mr. Downes made some improvements to the hotel while it was in his hands, adding about 15 rooms. In 1903 his wife went to Rouen, France to pick up their two daughters who had been attending a French convent for the past three years. In February 1905 the premises reverted back to Eneas Small. Downes moved to Goldstream, near Victoria, where he ran a hotel for eight months before having to assign to his creditors.²

Small resumed running the Cosmopolitan. He renewed his lease on the building in July 1906 for a further five years. Over the next few years he improved the bar and installed electric lights. He also began a collection of stuffed birds and mammals. In 1912 the liquor license was transferred from E.H. Small to A. Cameron. In March 1913 the license was transferred again to Joseph Campbell and John Armour. About this time Bob's Place, a cigar store, was operating in the Cosmopolitan (*see below*).

Over the subsequent years there were a number of proprietors of the Cosmopolitan which was one of the five hotels to acquire a beer license in July 1920. It was still running in 1970.

Queen's Hotel

1904 - c. 1917



C8260c

B:R:24

The Queen's Hotel originally opened in March 1898 as the East Kootenay Hotel. It doesn't seem to have been very successful as there were four different operators by mid 1900 when it closed for a while and was offered for sale. It was leased and reopened by a fifth operator who lasted a few months until the owner and original operator, Mrs. Donahue, resumed operating it and obtained a liquor license. After four months she was succeeded by Peter Matheson who seems to have been able to settle in. He operated the hotel from mid 1901 until late 1904.

When the hotel lease changed hands again in late 1904 the hotel became the Queen's Hotel. It continued to have a series of short term operators. N. Hanson, issuer of the only known Wasa, B.C. token, and later a Cranbrook business stalwart, bought the Queen's Hotel in February 1906 to rebuild it. Whether he did so or not is uncertain as the newspapers make no further mention of this happening. Gustav "Gus" Andeen took over the lease in November 1907 and proved to be the most stable operator to that point as he ran the hotel until his death in July 1913 at age 49, from spinal meningitis.

The hotel was noted in the newspapers in July 1917 when a card game with seven players was raided. The participants were each fined \$20. Prohibition came into effect on October 1, 1917 which ended all liquor sales. Management of the hotel was prosecuted in 1918 when a bottle of whiskey was found hidden in a cupboard, but the conviction was overturned on appeal. The hotel was one of five which were licensed in July 1920 and the license was extended to a beer parlour license in February 1927. Messrs. Benson & Veeberg were running the hotel by 1920 and still managing it in 1930 the point at which we concluded our research.

With so many proprietors and no issuer's name on the token it is difficult to determine when and by whom the token was first issued.

Gus. Andeen ad in 1909.

Queens Hotel
Gus. Andeen, Proprietor
Cranbrook, B. C.

The Queens is situated right in the centre of the City on Baker street, and it is the place where you will get

Good Meals
Good Rooms
Good Treatment
Good Cigars
Good Liquors

Remember---The Queens Hotel

Royal Hotel

1898 - 1915



C8290a

B:R:21

The Van Decars (also spelled Vandecar) were living in Swansea in 1898, a small short-lived community at the south end of Moyie Lake. L.B. (Levi) Van Decar was the proprietor of the Lake View Hotel there and was one of only two people listed in the directory. The Van Decars were from the U.S. and had entered Canada in 1895. In June 1898 Levi Van Decar was negotiating for the new hotel, and a week later he and his family had moved to Cranbrook. Frank Van Decar, the son, opened the Royal Café and Bakery by late August 1898. Thomas Wellman had a lease on the Royal Hotel when they bought it and they only took over the hotel at the end of August 1899 when Wellman's lease expired. Frank was listed in Cranbrook in the 1901 Census, but it appears that he and his family were living in Oakland, California in 1902, and in March 1903 he went to San Francisco to have medical treatments for a cancerous growth on his face.



C8290d

CEiv/bn: R:56



The Royal Hotel is at the right of this view (postally used September 4, 1909).

Levi Van Decar expanded the Royal Hotel in 1904 and the newspaper with typical understatement of the day said “there was nothing finer between Vancouver and Winnipeg.”³ It was noted in June 1904 that the hotel was greatly improved in appearance by the addition of a tower. In 1905 Frank Van Decar was living in Seattle and working for the Dubuque Telegraph Herald, selling hotel registers.

In 1907 Levi and two of his sons, Albert and Harry, left for their future home in Victoria where he took over the Driard Hotel. Frank sold his interests in Calgary and was moving to Cranbrook to take over the Royal Hotel. In 1908 the annex to the Royal Hotel was moved about 100 feet. The outcome of the construction was that the Royal Hotel could boast of having 101 rooms, certainly the largest hotel in the city.

In January 1909 Frank Van Decar gave up his lease to his father who still owned the building. The hotel was then leased to W.A. Rollins. Frank was said to have some health problems that moving to a lower altitude would help. He and his family moved to Vancouver. W.A. Steward took over Rollins’ lease in 1912. A 1913 advertisement while Wm. Steward was running it, stated, “Only White Help Employed ... Billiard Room in Connection ...”⁴

There was no specific mention of the hotel closing, but in May 1915 extensive additions to the dining-room were made in order to feed the recruits of the 54th Kootenay Battalion. In November 1916 the dining-room reopened. In May 1919 “The unoccupied portion of the old Royal Hotel is being torn down and the materials salvaged are for sale.”⁵ In July it was noted, “There isn’t much left now of the old Royal Hotel, except the Veteran’s parlors. Part of it has been moved to Durick avenue and the rest has been torn down.”⁶ The Byng Hotel opened in September 1926 in the building formerly occupied by the G.W.V.A. A BC Archives photo of the Byng Hotel was labelled as the Royal Hotel and the research of others indicates that the Royal Hotel was renamed the Byng Hotel, but there were Xmas ads for both hotels in 1929 and 1930 This requires more research.

The token and the “Good-in-trade” mirror, the latter a rare item in Canada, were probably issued in the first decade of the 20th century.

Venezia Hotel

1920 -



C8360c B:R:24
 “In Trade” is 15 mm across



C8360d B:R:24
 “In Trade” is 17 mm across

It would seem that the Venezia Hotel was a re-opening of one of the hotels that had closed after Prohibition. Unfortunately, we have not been able to determine which hotel. The first mention of the Venezia Hotel in the newspapers followed an affray early in the morning of May 27th 1920, when Chester de Palmer attempted to rob one of the proprietors of the Venezia, E. Biggattini. Awakened by a flashlight in his room he pinched his partner, Louie, [Guiseppe Marapodi?] who was sleeping in the same bed, then pounced on the man crawling on the floor.

They forced the man out onto the roof, but Biggattini was injured by a shot. De Palmer was later convicted and sentenced to 18 months in the Nelson gaol.



The next mention of the hotel does not get much prettier as V. Bino, a cook at the hotel, was sent to trial in February 1921 charged with “rolling” one Robert Speed for about \$250. Two months later Biggattini and Marapodi were charged and fined \$75 for selling liquor without a licence.

In October 1922 and February 1923 the bowling alley was twice charged with permitting youths under 18 to frequent the premises. In the first instance it was found that the city by-law did not cover the alleged offence and the case was dismissed but the second time the operators were fined \$25.

Over the next few years a number of different operators ran the hotel dining-room and the bowling alleys. In July 1926 Guiseppe “Joe” Marapodi became the sole proprietor of the hotel but he died suddenly in October of the same year and the hotel was put up for sale by the Estate. Frank Provenzano was the purchaser and planned to cater to the tourist trade. In 1929 Sam DeLuca took over the hotel and was still operating it at the end of 1946. According to David Frame (of the Home Bakery), in 1975 it was called the Sam Steele Hotel. The name Venezia is Italian for Venice.

Armour & Kennedy

1911 - 1917



C7030a

B:R:21

John Egan Kennedy was one of the earliest residents, arriving on December 1, 1897.⁷ Born in Chapeau, Quebec, August 26, 1874 he grew up in Mattawa, Ontario.⁸ He started working in sawmills, but by the age of nineteen he was railroading, an occupation he followed for some fifteen years. By late 1897 he was working in the Cranbrook area driving a four-horse

team during the railway construction days.⁹ In 1900 when he enlisted in the Strathcona's Horse he was listed as a brakeman. His unit went to South Africa and fought in the Boer War.¹⁰ Kennedy remained in South Africa until May 1901, receiving a medal with four bars. Returning to civilian life Kennedy resumed his railway work, but in 1902, while yard foreman at Crookston, Minnesota, he lost a leg in an accident. Unable to continue in his previous occupation, he moved into the accounting department of the Crow's Nest Pass division of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, residing at Cranbrook. In 1909 Kennedy worked as a bookkeeper with P. Burns and Company in their Lethbridge, Alberta office. He stayed with Burns for fifteen months, then worked for six months with the City Cartage Company.

In 1911, John E. Kennedy purchased the Brunswick Bowling Alleys and Pool Room in partnership with John Armour. Unfortunately there were no earlier mentions of this establishment in the *Cranbrook Herald* so we know neither when it was established, nor who ran it previously. An August 1911 report states, "The large billiard parlors, known as The Club, conducted by Messrs. Kennedy and Armour, have been found inadequate to meet the requirements of their patrons. This week the proprietors had the rooms enlarged preparatory to installing two additional billiard tables."¹¹

John E. Kennedy was elected as a Cranbrook alderman in January 1913. He was politically active, a Liberal, but he did not run for election in 1914. In July 1913 he purchased from D.D. McLaws the Brunswick Bowling Alleys,¹² an operation which had been opened in February the previous year by T. Horten Campbell with four bowling alleys, a spacious billiard and pool parlour and a cigar and tobacco stand.¹³ D.D. McLaws had become a partner with Campbell, then became the sole owner. This appears to a completely different business from the one with a similar name that Armour & Kennedy took over in 1911.

In 1915 the partnership of Armour & Kennedy added a fruit stand in their store at the corner of Van Horne and Baker streets,¹⁴ but the newspaper is strangely silent about either partner or the business for the next three years. This is frustrating because of the lack of any comment regarding the termination of the partnership. However, John Armour was occasionally noted as travelling quite extensively in British Columbia and Alberta. The last mention of the partnership of Armour & Kennedy was January 20, 1916 when, "John Armour of the firm of Armour & Kennedy spent Monday and Tuesday in Wardner on business."¹⁵ The Liberal party had swept to provincial power in September 1916 after a decade of Conservative government and may have made a clean sweep of their appointments, which in those days were patronage positions. By 1917 Kennedy had been appointed to the position of homestead inspector. He was promoted to the office of the mining recorder in 1918 and was placed in charge of the government employment office in 1922. In 1926 he became the Government Agent for Cranbrook.¹⁶ John Kennedy passed away September 26, 1945 at the age of 71.¹⁷ In summary, the partnership of Armour & Kennedy operated from 1911 until 1917.

John Armour

1917 - 1921



C7010a

A:R:25

John Armour was first mentioned in July 1908, running the Cranbrook Employment Agency.¹⁸ The next month he took over the Cranbrook Bill Posting Company. In 1909 Armour advertised as a real estate and employment agent. He sold the bill posting business in April 1910, and in June of that year he placed an ad for McKinstry & Armour, sole agents for B.C. for the Automatic Vacuum Cleaner.¹⁹ Mr. Armour seems to have been willing to put his hand to anything, which in the time and place was typical of many as there could be insufficient business in any one field to make a living. For a short while from 1913 he was also a part-owner of the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

The only hint of John Armour's life before he arrived in Cranbrook at age 29 is the May 1913 mention that he received a cable from Berlin, Germany announcing the sudden death of his sister. Does this indicate that he came from Germany? We could not find him in Cranbrook in the 1911 Canada Census.

After Kennedy went to work for the provincial government, John Armour continued to run the billiard and pool parlour on his own. In 1919 between April and early June a few advertisements appeared for Willy-Overland cars, J. Armour, Agent, or for John Armour, Dealer, but this appears to have been less than successful as there was no further mention of the Overland car agency in Cranbrook. In September 1920 Armour's pool room was raided for gambling, but he was away and had left the business in the hands of Ernie Dalberg.²⁰ Two months later armed men broke into the pool room and relieved the card players of some \$60. One shot was fired in the incident. The robbers, Pete Zalinski and Travers Roy Rathwell, were arrested later that day, pled guilty and were sentenced within the week to seven years and five years respectively.²¹

In July 1921 a new hardware business opened, "in the Lester Clapp store building formerly occupied by Armour & Co.",²² which probably indicates that Armour & Co. had closed. There was a mention of John Armour, Ltd. listed as "aerated waters and liquor export"²³ suggesting that he might have entered that field, except that there is no indication of a John Armour, Ltd., ever being registered in British Columbia. After a trip of several months in early 1922 spent in Ireland, England and Europe, John Armour appears to have become involved in the newest craze – oil leases. By 1924 he was living in Lacombe, Alberta picking up oil leases. He later moved to Calgary where from 1926 until 1928 he was in an oil brokerage partnership with John Roberts, a former Cranbrook policeman. Subsequently he continued on his own as a broker for a number of years. He died in Calgary in 1959 and is buried in Queens Park Cemetery.²⁴ In his years in Calgary he lived in the Y.M.C.A. and several different hotels, which would indicate that he was a bachelor. There was no obituary published in the *Calgary Herald*.

The Armour token of Cranbrook, B.C. was elusive. It was reported to Leslie C. Hill in 1958, supported by a rubbing. But the Toronto resident who owned the token died shortly afterwards and the token only turned up again in 2010 when his grandson wrote asking for information about three Cranbrook tokens in the collection he had inherited. The token likely dates to the 1917 to 1921 period in which Mr. Armour ran the pool room.

W.B. Bardgett and Cranbrook Dairy

1903 - 1916



C7090a

A:O:25



C7660a

A:O:25

Born in England, William Biggins “W.B.” Bardgett hauled freight between Golden and Cranbrook before the coming of the railway. He moved to Cranbrook from Fort Steele in August 1903, purchasing P. McConnel’s dairy. In May 1906 he had a herd of 21 cows. It was about this same time that the first advertisement using the name Cranbrook Dairy appeared. In 1910 when the Cranbrook Fall Fair was organized, Mr. Bardgett was the president. Although defeated for president in the next year, in 1912 he was named as honorary president of the Cranbrook Agricultural Association. In 1912 he was quoted as expecting to make a trip to the old country, then settle down in the cattle dealing business, but continued on in the dairy business. In 1915 he had 75 cattle on his five acre farm just outside Cranbrook. During WWI he assisted the livestock commissioner to obtain horses for the army.

Bardgett sold the Cranbrook Dairy business to H.A. Amerman in December 1916. Mr. Amerman was going to bottle all the milk sold. In 1919 Bardgett ran a small ad, “W.B. Bardgett has milk and cream for sale.”²⁵ He was then 57 years of age and retired that year. He passed away April 1940, having been an invalid for eight years.

S.J. Mighton Cigar Store

1904 - 1910



C8110a

B:R:21

(denticled border)



C8110b

B:R:21

(beaded border)

Samuel Joseph “S.J.” Mighton was born in Woodstock, Ontario on April 10, 1853 and was said to have come to British Columbia about 1875. We first encountered him in Nelson, B.C. in September 1897 when he was refused a liquor license for a saloon in the Queen Hotel, probably later known as the Queen’s Hotel. By October 1897 there is a reference to him running the Post Office Cigar Store in Nelson, retailing and wholesaling cigars and tobacco. Like many other Kootenay pioneers he seems to have been interested in mining. In July 1898 it was reported that, “S.J. Mighton of Nelson has started several men to work on the Loyal Legion and the Annie Maud, on Wild Horse creek.”²⁶ In 1897 when the Knights of Pythias organized in Nelson, Mighton was the Master of Finance for the group.

In March 1899 Mighton assigned to creditors and appears to have left Nelson. He is mentioned several times over the next four years as being a representative of the Geo. E. Tuckett & Son Company, Limited, tobacco manufacturers of Hamilton, Ontario. Although we have checked city directories for Vancouver, Winnipeg and Hamilton – there were no Calgary city directories of that period – we have not found where Mighton lived between 1899 and 1904.

In late June 1904 Mighton secured a lease of the Cranbrook store formerly occupied by C.E. Reid & Co., and was planning to open a first class cigar and tobacco store within a couple of weeks.²⁷ The following spring Mighton moved into the Watts block and entered into a partnership with F.W. Kelsall.²⁸ In early May 1905, “Messrs. Mighton & Kelsall will have a fine establishment when they get their new place fixed up. They will put in billiard and pool tables.”²⁹ Next month Mighton purchased a building in Cranbrook and in July, after only a few months, the partnership with Kelsall was dissolved, with Mighton carrying on in the cigar and tobacco business.³⁰ In June 1906 it was reported that, “S.J. Mighton should be a proud man. Last Monday there were a great many people from other towns in the city and a large number of them visited that celebrated tobacco emporium and left with words of praise for the man who would carry such a stock in a town the size of Cranbrook. All that can be said in praise of Mr. Mighton’s store is coming to him for there is not another like it this side of the coast.”³¹

In January 1908 Mighton advertised that he was planning to leave Cranbrook and held an “immense sale.” However, he did not close but carried on. In 1908 he announced that he planned to run for city council, but his name did not appear on the ballot. In 1909 Mighton did run for council but finished dead last of eleven candidates.³² At the beginning of 1910 Sam Mighton sold his cigar store to Lester Clapp and in February he and Mrs. Mighton left for Vancouver where they planned to reside.³³ In Vancouver Mighton appears to have become a traveller for a tobacco company, but the directories mentioned his occupation only once. He was still living in Vancouver in March 1916, but by 1918 he was operating a tobacco and cigar business in Trail, B.C. In 1923, in failing health, he disposed of his tobacco business to A.C. Smith & Co., of Cranbrook.³⁴ Smith had worked as a clerk for Mighton in Cranbrook in 1905. Samuel J. Mighton died of chronic Bright’s disease on July 11, 1925 at the age of 72.³⁵

Bob’s Place

1912 - 1914



C7160a

A:R:21½

Robert “Bob” Edwin Nafe opened Bob’s Place, a cigar store, in December 1912. His store was located in the Cosmopolitan Hotel. He advertised regularly with small one line ads which read, “Meet me at Bob’s Place.” He only operated for about 19 months, closing his store in July 1914. The issue that mentioned he was closing also carried the announcement of the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand which led to World War I. In January 1915 Nafe was working as a machinist in North Yakima, in Washington State. In December 1915, when he married Jessie May Murgatroyd in Cranbrook, he was 32 years of age, and said to be working as a machinist in his home town of Preston, Ontario.

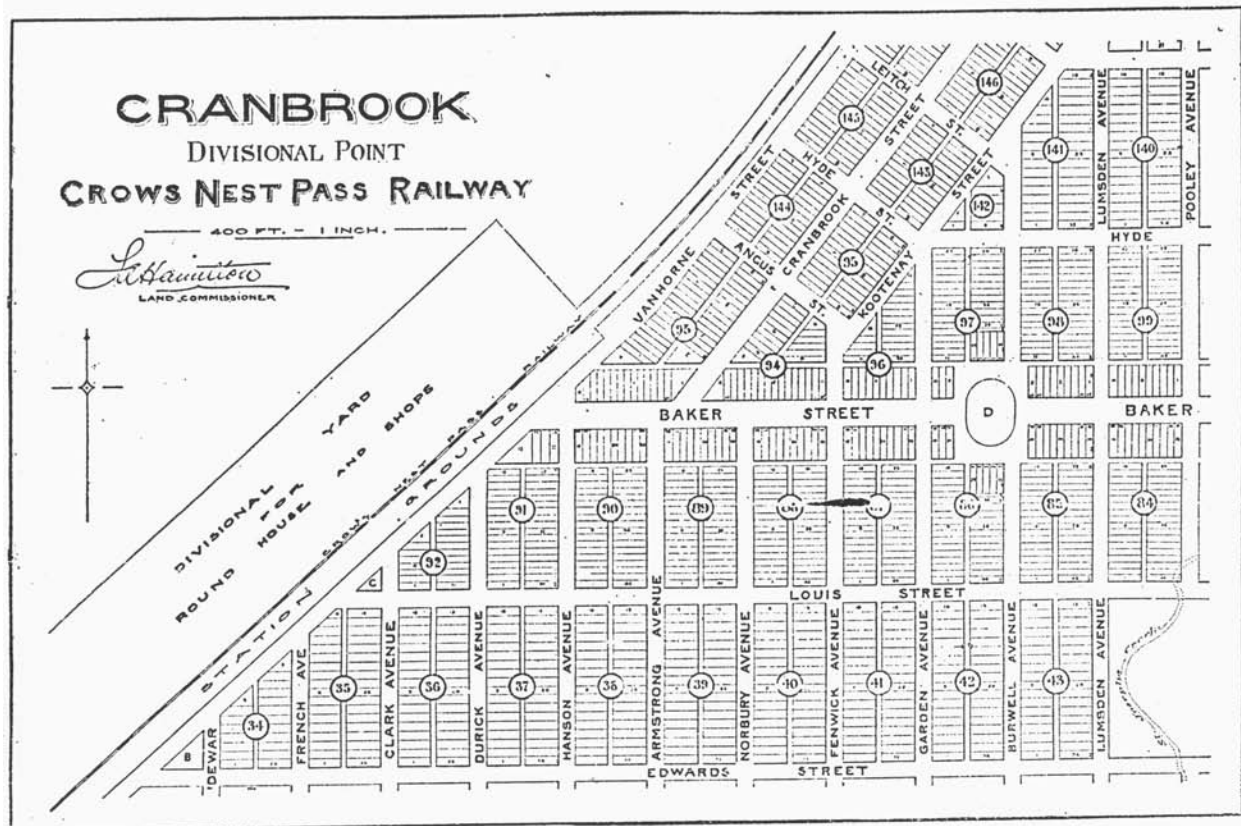
Brown's Place

1909 - 1912



C7210b B:R:21

There were several Browns in business in Cranbrook, but the most likely to have been the issuer of the Brown's Place token was Ed. H. Brown. We could only find three references to him. In 1909 "E.H. Brown, of the Union Cigar store, has put in two silent salesmen show cases that are a big improvement. Mr. Brown is doing a big business and is giving every satisfaction to his patrons."³⁶ The Boston Clothiers went into "Brown's old stand" in May 1912.³⁷ This site was one door east of the Manitoba Hotel, which was run by James Brown. One wonders if Ed and James were related. Finally, at the beginning of 1914, "Ed Brown, who formerly conducted a pool and billiard room here, is a visitor in the city this week."³⁸



A plan of Cranbrook from 1898.

There was an advertisement in December 1908 for Cameron's Cigar Store but we do not know if that Cameron was William Forest Cameron, or even if they were related. But there was no Cameron or Cameron's Cigar Store listed in Cranbrook in the 1910 B.C. Directory.



C7260c

A:O:25



C7260d

A:S:26



C7260e

A:R:26

William Forest Cameron was first elected to the city council in January 1914. He defeated Alfred Genest for mayor in January 1919, but the result was reversed in 1920. He became mayor again in 1923. His obituary states that he came to Cranbrook in 1900 and was a passenger conductor on the Crow's Nest Division of the C.P.R. until he went into business.

Robert Earl "Bert" Sang was W.F. Cameron's son-in-law, having married Beryl H. Cameron in 1920. Unfortunately she died from tetanus in September 1922. Some years later Bert Sang married Gertrude Pearl Sweeney on May 21, 1930 in Cranbrook.

Cameron and Sang purchased the cigar store business of Lester Clapp in November 1923, which Clapp had purchased from S.J. Mighton in January 1910 (*see above*). Cameron & Sang were both retailers and wholesalers of tobacco and related products. The store was at 813 Baker Street.

Mr. Cameron was tragically killed in late February 1934 when the car he was driving went over an embankment and landed in the Elk River near Fernie. While his two passengers were able to get out, being pushed through the canvas top by the force of the water, Mr. Cameron was trapped behind the steering wheel. Following Mr. Cameron's death Bert Sang continued to run the business. Mrs. Cameron died in 1950 and when her estate was wound-up, Bert Sang incorporated R.E. Sang Ltd., purchased the business and continued for a number of years.

R.E. Sang Ltd.

1952 - 1983



C8306a

B:Rp:32

The R.E. Sang Ltd. continued to operate the cigar store and wholesale business until 1962 when the retail outlet was sold to Frank Martin. Bert Sang died suddenly while on vacation with his wife in Las Vegas, Nevada in January 1968. Mr. Sang was first elected to city council in 1944, then as mayor in 1947, a position he held until 1961. In 1962 he was made a Freeman of the City of Cranbrook. The family continued to run the wholesale business until 1973 when they sold it to Kelly Douglas & Co., Limited of Vancouver. R.E. Sang Ltd. was voluntarily wound up in 1983. The known pieces are pierced suggesting that this piece is a keychain. It most likely was produced in 1968.

Cranbrook Cigar Store

1908 - 1912



C7610a

B:R:21

The barber shop, cigar store and pool room of McDonald & Laing that later became the Cranbrook Cigar Store was first mentioned in December 1907. In January 1908 “Buys out partner. C. McDonald has bought out W.B. Laing’s interest in the barber shop, cigar store and pool room on the north side of Baker Street. In future this comfortable resort will be known as ‘The C.P.R. barber shop, cigar store and pool room.’ Mr. McDonald, the proprietor, is an ex-railway man and is still financier of the B. of R. T. He is also secretary of the O.O.O. Farther [sic] he is a good fellow.”³⁹ Laing and his wife left for Ontario the next week. George Welch bought out Clint McDonald in June 1908 and advertised as the Cranbrook Cigar Store.

G. Scammon and J.E. McDonald purchased the business in April 1909 and in all likelihood ran it until 1912. McDonald moved to Phoenix to run a hotel in April 1912. Scammon vanished somewhere along the line.

Cranbrook Trading Company, Limited

1908 - 1944



C7760a

A:R:18

C7760b

A:R:23

C7760c

A:R:27½



C7760d

A:R:31½

C7760e

A:R:36

The Cranbrook Trading Company was formed in 1898 to take over the business of W.T. Kaake & Co. An incorporation took place in October 1908 and the new entity, Cranbrook Trading Company, Limited assumed the business, which was a general store. The principals included three Cranbrook men, John F. Bridges, Atlee D. Bridges, and Frank H. Dezall, plus James G. Gilchrist of Coleman, Alberta, Charles Taylor of Sheffield, N.B. and a married woman, Mrs. John Johnson, of Boston, Mass. The business changed its name to Cranbrook Stores Limited in 1944. The company filed its last report with the Registrar of Companies in 1952 and subsequently was struck from the Register in 1957.

The tokens could have been introduced as early as 1908, but we believe that they were first issued somewhat later, possibly the 1920's.

F. Kummer & Co.

1904 - 1928



C8094a

A:R:25

Fred Kummer was of Swiss origin. He was living in Trail in 1902 when his son Harold was born, but he was not sufficiently prominent to be listed in the B.C. Directory. In 1905 he was in Cranbrook, as Kummer, Sandberg & Co., bakers and confectioners. His partners were

Wm. T. Sandberg and John Fluhrer. The bakery obtained fine new wagons in 1907 and in 1910, the latter coming from Cranbrook Trading Co.

We do not know when Sandberg or Fluhrer left the partnership, but Fluhrer was still mentioned in the directory in 1910. His presence might explain why Kummer could get away to attend to activities of the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias as often as he did.

In November 1921 Fred Kummer passed away from pneumonia at age 57. His remains lay in state at the Knights of Pythias Castle Hall on Sunday December 4th. After Mr. Kummer died his wife and son carried on the business. In June 1928 Charles Cook purchased the bakery, using the Kummer name for only a short while. In March 1929 he changed the name to the Golden Grain Bakery. Mrs. Kummer and son Harold moved to North Vancouver shortly after the bakery was sold.

Dale's Bakery, W.C. Dale

1932 - 1935



C7797a

A:Re:32x19

William Charles Dale was born in Thorold, Ontario in 1867 and apprenticed as a baker in Sudbury. At the time flour salesmen kept an eye out for their clients and would try to match up good bakers with good openings. Dale was told of an opening in Cranbrook and came west in 1898. There he started working for Simpson, the baker on Hanson Avenue [whom we have not found in the directories, although there was a Chartrand Bros. on Hanson], which today is 8th Avenue South. A co-worker at the bakery was Fred Kummer (*see above*). Dale then worked for Kummer, but in 1919-1920 he started his own bakery further north on Hanson Avenue. Unfortunately this was destroyed by fire in 1923 so Dale returned to work for Kummer. After Kummer's bakery was sold he continued working for Charles Cook. In 1932 Dale returned to his original location on 8th Avenue which had been rebuilt after the fire, but had been vacant for some time. He ran this bakery until 1935 and it was during this period, 1932 - 1935, that he used the tokens. During the depression money was very short and Dale, his wife, and the delivery boy sold the tokens at 10 for a \$1.00 and sometimes even 12 for a \$1.00. The cash flow allowed him to buy flour and other baking ingredients.

In 1935 Dale sold the bakery to a man named Davis who was burnt out in the big fire that occurred in the fall of that year. The King Edward Hotel, Cranbrook Feed Store, Dezall's garage, a house and part of the Cranbrook Hotel all went up in flames.

For the next four years Dale travelled around as a relief baker in Creston and Kimberley and then took a job with Frame's Home Bakery – another token issuer. He left Cranbrook for Victoria in 1948 where he passed away in 1958, aged 90 years. He and his wife, Elsie, had five children, of whom two were still alive when this article was compiled.

Much of the information in this article has been provided by Ronald E. Dale, a son of William Charles Dale, who remembered the tokens. Where possible it has been checked by use of city directories and vital statistics records. Unfortunately there were no local newspapers for 1935 to date the fire.

Great War Veterans Association

c. 1923 - 1926



C7910a

A:S:25½

The G.W.V.A. (Great War Veterans Association) was formed in 1917. It may have taken over the old Royal Hotel building by April 1918 – the reports are inconclusive – but it was the one club that was allowed a beer license in July 1920. The G.W.V.A. was one of the organizations that became part of the Canadian Legion in 1926. At that time its building was sold to George Tater who opened it as the Byng Hotel.

The token probably dates from no earlier than 1923 when Service Checks were allowed by a Court ruling.⁴⁰ The use of Service Checks arose from the rules put in force by a Government that would rather have had total Prohibition and consequently made the rules concerning drinking difficult and complex. Allowing beer in veterans' clubs was a survival tactic for the government because the returned veterans had banded together and with the cry "We could die for our country, but we can't have a beer," threatened to defeat the government of the day.

Gwynne's

1912 - 1915



C7960a

B:R:21

James Crawford was running a barber shop in the Stone building in Moyie, B.C., by September 1904. In November of that year Crawford moved to the Farrell block where he ran the barbershop, in partnership with Earl G. Gwynne who operated the cigar, tobacco and confectionery side of the business. Nothing is known of where Gwynne was living prior to his arrival in Moyie, but he was born in Cleveland, Ohio c. 1875 and a Carl Gwynne made a visit to Moyie in March 1905 from southern Idaho.

In April 1905 the partnership split up and Gwynne was running the cigar, tobacco and confectionery business on his own. James Crawford moved on to Kamloops, where he committed suicide in 1908. Meanwhile Gwynne was a regular advertiser in the Moyie Leader. In June 1909 he obtained the agency for Hazelwood ice cream, which seems to have been the quality ice cream of the day, and his ads changed from E.G. Gwynne to Gwynne's Hazelwood Parlor. In July, fixtures for a soda fountain arrived. With the seasonal drop in ice cream sales in the fall Gwynne's advertising reverted to his name, E.G. Gwynne. In February 1910 his

advertisements read, “Our card and reading room is very popular. A nice place to drop into and spend a few moments, we always have a nice warm fire.”

On the 27th of February 1910, Earl G. Gwynne and Hildur V. Mark were married in his residence in the Farrell block. Gwynne was 35 years of age, and his wife was 22 years old. Unfortunately the marriage was not to last long as in late September of the same year Mrs. Gwynne drowned in Moyie Lake. The coroner reported the cause of death as “drowning while mentally unbalanced.”

Gwynne continued to advertise in the *Moyie Leader* until the newspaper ceased publication in April 1911, but Gwynne visited Cranbrook several times in March and April 1911 and he may well have been planning to move to Cranbrook by then. With no newspaper available and no city directories published between 1910 and 1918, except for the South-East Kootenay Directory of 1914, it is difficult to say when he moved.

In Cranbrook Gwynne was not a regular advertiser in either the *Cranbrook Herald* or *The Prospector*, and the first advertisement found was in January 1912 which read “Gwynne’s” supporting the attribution of the token to Cranbrook rather than Moyie.

In 1915, the *Cranbrook Herald* wrote, “E.G. Gwynne, who has been in business here for the past five years, has decided to quit and is selling his stock by public auction. The sale commenced Wednesday and will be continued until Saturday, when it is hoped Mr. Chas. A. Waterman, of Nelson, the auctioneer in charge will have disposed of the entire stock of goods. Mr. Gwynne expects to be leaving Cranbrook shortly for the east on a visit to relatives and friends. Mr. Gwynne’s departure from Cranbrook is regretted by every business man in the place. He took an active part in the welfare of the city and was always on the job when anything had to be done. Cranbrook can ill-afford to lose such men.”⁴¹

There were no further mention of Mr. Gwynne in the *Cranbrook Herald*.

J.A.D.

c. 1918 - 1930 ?



C7810c

B:R:24

Does any reader know who this was because we do not. There have been few clues as to who it might have been. Comparing the token with other Cranbrook tokens a date somewhere about 1918 - 1930 is likely. The most likely issuer is John Delmer, a fruit merchant from 1918 into the 1930’s, who never earned a mention in the Cranbrook newspapers. However, the South-East Kootenay Directory of 1914 mentions a barber named Joseph A. Devine working for A.H. Bulloch, and if Devine ever went out on his own he would certainly be a candidate. He was not listed on the 1916 Provincial Voters List. Unfortunately, Devine also never rated mention in the local newspaper.

Home Bakery, R. Frame

1912 - 1975



C8060a

A:R:25

Robert Frame started the Home Bakery in June 1912. He had been a baker in Scotland before coming to Canada in 1910. His prices in 1922 were 3 loaves for 25 cents. His son, David, left high school in 1925 to learn the trade. When Robert died in November 1933, aged 59, David and his mother took over the bakery. Mrs. Frame passed away in 1945 leaving the bakery to David and his sister. They operated the Home Bakery until 1975 when they decided to retire. They closed the shop and sold the equipment and property.

The token would have been issued between 1912 and 1933, although it was also used after that.

A. Earle Leigh

1923 - c. 1944



C8098a

A:VI:49½x29

A. Earle Leigh was in Victoria in 1914, working as a machinist for James Leigh & Co. He married Susan May Sterne in Victoria in 1915. He was first noted in Cranbrook in April 1922, working for Raworth Bros. He opened his own watchmaking and jewelry store on Norbury Avenue in June 1923. Over the next couple of years he made improvements to the store, putting down a new floor and opening up some rooms that had previously been used as living quarters. In 1927, after an absence of ten years, he paid a visit to his home town of Galt, Ontario.

Leigh seems to have led a quiet existence in Cranbrook for the most part and other than his frequent advertisements in the newspapers he is seldom mentioned. He was an active Oddfellow. One note of interest is a report in August 1927 that he, "...has recently completed a delicate piece of workmanship calling for considerable patience and mechanical skill. After several attempts, Mr. Leigh succeeded in manufacturing a tiny drill capable of piercing a common pin from end to end, thereby converting it into a tube through which can be threaded a fine steel wire."⁴²

Leigh left Cranbrook toward the end of WWII – he is last listed in the 1944 BC Directory. He later worked for a manufacturing jeweler, Kenton Ltd., in Victoria where he died at age 60, November 21, 1949. The piece is a key finder.

Appendix

The following are known token issuers from Cranbrook:

C7010	John Armour	
C7030	Armour & Kennedy	
C7090	W.B. Bardgett Dairy	(see also Cranbrook Dairy)
C7113	B.P.O.E. Lodge 443	(1984)
C7160	Bob's Place	
C7210	Brown's Place	
C7260	Cameron & Sang	
C7310	Canadian Hotel	
C7340	Casino of the Rockies	(2002 -)
C7410	City Dairy	(after WWII)
C7510	Commercial Hotel	
C7560	Cosmopolitan Hotel	
C7610	Cranbrook Cigar Store	
C7660	Cranbrook Dairy	(see also W.B. Bardgett)
C7760	Cranbrook Trading Co. Ltd.	
C7797	W.C. Dale	
C7810	J.A.D.	
C7883	Eagles Aerie No. 3032	(c. 1975 -)
C7910	Great War Veterans Association	
C7960	Gwynne's	
C7980	Gyro Club	(c. 1980 -)
C8060	Home Bakery	
C8090	Kinsmen	(c. 1980 -)
C8094	F. Kummer & Co.	
C8098	A. Earle Leigh	
C8110	S.J. Mighton Cigar Store	
C8160	Peerless Dairy	(c. 1955 -)
C8210	Purity Dairy	(now considered General, 7081)
C8260	Queen's Hotel	
C8283	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 24	(1976 -)
C8290	Royal Hotel	
C8306	R.E. Sang Ltd.	
C8360	Venezia Hotel	

We wish to acknowledge T.A. Thomson's assistance in the preparation of this article. He spent many hours editing and checking this article.

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- ¹ *Cranbrook Herald*, October 12, 1899, p. 1
- ² A form of bankruptcy
- ³ *Cranbrook Herald*, February 25, 1904, p. 3
- ⁴ *Cranbrook Herald*, August 28, 1913, p. 3
- ⁵ *Cranbrook Herald*, May 8, 1919, p. 1
- ⁶ *Cranbrook Herald*, July 24, 1919, p. 3
- ⁷ *Cranbrook Courier*, September 16, 1926, p. 12, "Old-Timers will shortly organize..." Kennedy was listed as the fourth in seniority by arrival date, on December 1, 1897.
- ⁸ Howay & Scholefield, *British Columbia From the Earliest Times to the Present*, S.J. Clarke Publishing, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Montreal and Chicago, 1913-1914. Four volumes of which volumes III and IV are biographical. Vol. IV, pp 1274-1275 gives a synopsis of Kennedy's career to 1914.
- ⁹ *Cranbrook Courier*, September 27, 1945, p. 1
- ¹⁰ *Cranbrook Herald*, February 8, 1900, p. 1
- ¹¹ *Cranbrook Herald*, August 3, 1911, p. 5 The purchase of the business went unnoticed by the *Herald*. The year was mentioned in the Howay & Scholefield biography.
- ¹² *Cranbrook Herald*, July 10, 1913, p. 1
- ¹³ *Cranbrook Herald*, February 22, 1912, p. 4
- ¹⁴ *Cranbrook Herald*, July 1, 1915, p. 3 and July 15, 1915, p. 3
- ¹⁵ *Cranbrook Herald*, January 20, 1916, p. 4
- ¹⁶ *Cranbrook Courier*, August 19, 1926, p. 1
- ¹⁷ Register of Vital Events, Death 1945-09-669284, microfilm B13188, September 26, 1945
- ¹⁸ *Cranbrook Herald*, March 20, 1913, p. 5 where he is mentioned as taking over the Cosmopolitan Hotel with J.F. Campbell, it is stated that he had been in Cranbrook for the past six years. He was listed in the civic voter's list for 1908 published in the *Cranbrook Herald* January 2, 1908, p. 2, which is the earliest reference of him that we have found.
- ¹⁹ *Cranbrook Herald*, July 30, 1908, p. 1; August 6, 1908, p. 5; June 10, 1909, p. 3; June 9, 1910, p. 6
- ²⁰ *Cranbrook Herald*, September 16, 1920, p. 1
- ²¹ *Cranbrook Herald*, December 9, 1920, p. 1 and December 16, 1920, p. 1
- ²² *Cranbrook Herald*, July 14, 1921, p. 1
- ²³ *Bradstreet's Book of Commercial Ratings*, Vol. 210, July 1920, p. 3
- ²⁴ Queens Park Cemetery, lot 110, block 16, section 16. His dates are recorded as 1884 to 1959.
- ²⁵ *Cranbrook Herald*, December 19, 1919, p. 3
- ²⁶ *Daily Miner*, Nelson, July 30, 1898, p. 3
- ²⁷ *Cranbrook Herald*, June 23, 1904, p. 5
- ²⁸ *Cranbrook Herald*, March 30 1905, p. 5 and April 20, 1905, p. 1. F.W. Kelsall issued a token in Vancouver, U4620a. His story has been written up in *Numismatica Canada* 2002, p. 79. His short partnership with S.J. Mighton was not known at that time.
- ²⁹ *Cranbrook Herald*, May 4, 1905, p. 3
- ³⁰ *Cranbrook Herald*, June 1, 1905, p. 1 and July 13, 1905, p. 3
- ³¹ *Cranbrook Herald*, June 28, 1906, p. 5
- ³² *Cranbrook Herald*, January 14, 1909, p. 1
- ³³ *Cranbrook Herald*, January 20, 1910, p. 3, and February 17, 1910, p. 4
- ³⁴ *Trail News*, September 21, 1923, p. 1
- ³⁵ B.C. Archives, GR2951, Death registrations, 1925-09-349347, microfilm B13126. Bright's Disease is an older classification for a number of various diseases of the kidneys - acute or chronic.
- ³⁶ *Cranbrook Herald*, October 14, 1909, p. 5
- ³⁷ *Cranbrook Herald*, May 9, 1912, p. 8
- ³⁸ *Cranbrook Herald*, January 1, 1914, p. 3
- ³⁹ *Cranbrook Herald*, January 23, 1908, p. 2
- ⁴⁰ Ronald A. Greene, *The Service Check Tokens of British Columbia*, Transactions 1999, p. 19
- ⁴¹ *Cranbrook Herald*, May 27, 1915, p. 3
- ⁴² *Cranbrook Courier*, August 4, 1927, p. 6