**HISTORY 1120**

**READING LOG #7**

Kacy Keutzer

While reading the documents that have been given to us for our readings this week, many things I have read were things I had already known about the gold rush and Barkerville. However, there was also many things that I had not learned about, in fact 90% of the first nations population being wiped out from epidemics was complete news to me! I had known that there were many people who died from illnesses like smallpox etc. but I did not know that these diseases came in epidemics that completely were able to make a village have to relocate. I found it very interesting what the author in the primary document, the letter in the book, Matthew Mcfire, has to say about British Columbia and Canada in general. He speaks of how “The Country is not what it was represented to be”. He talks about also how British Columbia has no farming land and that there will be never a “place” here. He says this because there is, in his opinion, nothing in British Columbia that would have kept a population going. Once the mines were finished he assumed there would be no way that people could continue to thrive in this area, he was obviously mistaken. There is farm lands in the northern areas, my home is even located on one, as well as in the southern areas like the letter talks about.

The gold rush and Barkerville is a topic that I have explored very in depth ever since I was a child, it is a topic that has intrigued my interest and I enjoy how I am able to continue learning more and more about this topic.

Sources:

1.Daniel Marshall, “Rickard Revisited: Native ‘Participation’ in the Gold Discoveries of British Columbia,” *Native Studies Review 11:1* (1996): 91-108.

2. Primary Documents: “BC Gold Rushes: from Thomas Throner and Thor Frohn-Nielsen (Eds.), A Few Acres of Snow: Documents in Pre-Confederation Canadian History (3rd Edition), Toronto University of Toronto Press, 2009: 232-253