

**TWO PRESENTATIONS ON BC FRANCOPHONE RANCHERS**

**Don’t miss this double presentation from researchers on ranching in the BC Interior, highlighting Francophones that participated in that region’s history.**

**Where: The Historic Hastings Mill Store Museum, 1575 Alma St., Vancouver**

**When: Sat., August 3, 1-4pm. Includes a tea service.**

**Admission: Free, but bring a small plate of pastries! And the museum will be open for your enjoyment.**

**The Adventurous Life of Joseph Castillou, an Early BC Francophone Settler Rancher**

Joseph Castillou (1857 – 1932) was a resilient, resourceful non-conformist rancher who lived an adventurous, and sometimes wild, life. He was born in the foothills of France’s Pyrenees mountains and grew up knowing cattle. In 1875, young Joseph drove his herd of longhorns from California into BC, establishing his working ranch in the beautiful Coldwater Valley, south of Merritt. In the 1870s & 80s, he worked with BC’s most famous packer, Cataline, running pack trains to Barkerville. Joseph was also a Ft. St. James fur trader & trapper, ran the cable ferry across the mighty Thompson River at Spence’s Bridge, was a pack outfitter and entrepreneur, all while running his Coldwater Ranch.

**This richly illustrated talk is by his great-granddaughter, Jolene Cumming.**

**AND**

**The digital exhibition THE FRANCOPHONE RANCHERS OF BC’s INTERIOR PLATEAU, 1860s-70s**

The SHFCB has done onsite research in the Cariboo and the Okanagan on the history of Francophones who launched ranches in those regions in the 1860s-70s, holding oral history interviews with their descendants, and creating from the results a bilingual digital exhibition. The eight families that became the focus of the project are: Boucherie, Guichon, Isnardy, Lequime, Minnaberriet, Patenaude, Pigeon, and Versepuech / Gaspard. You will see how the Indigenous descendants of these families found their respective places during their historical journeys. It is indeed from these families that we have been directed to disseminate the facts unearthed during this project.

**By historian Maurice Guibord, Executive Director, Société historique francophone de la Colombie-Britannique**



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<https://www.digitalmuseums.ca/funded-projects/the-francophone-ranchers-of-british-columbias-interior-plateau/>