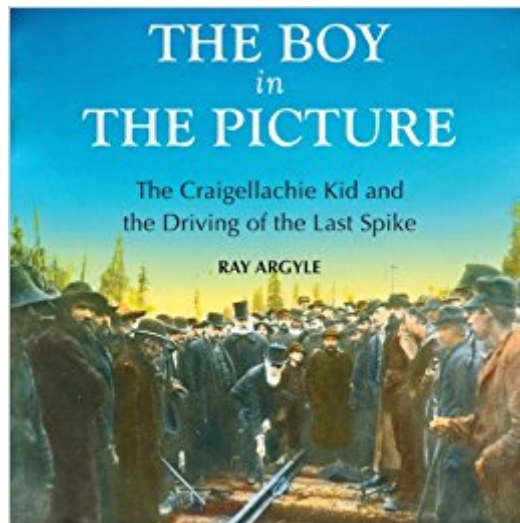




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The Boy In The Picture: The Craigellachie Kid And The Driving Of The Last Spike



Synopsis

Edward Mallandaine was there! To prove it he thrust himself into the historic photograph of the "Last Spike" being driven to mark the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Surrounded by the railway dignitaries of the time, his young face peers out amid their frosty beards. Edward had just turned eighteen when he left his home in Victoria, British Columbia, to join the Canadian militia to fight Louis Riel in the North-West Rebellion of 1885. Hired to ride dispatches over the unfinished stretch of railway in British Columbia, he meets highway men, high officials, men of the North-West Mounted Police, and the denizens of saloons hidden away in mountain passes. He survives the lawlessness of remote towns and railway camps, rubs shoulders with Chinese labourers struggling to blast a right-of-way through the towering peaks of Eagle Pass, and makes a freezing midnight ride by railway flatcar to reach the outpost of Craigellachie just in time.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,471,293 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Canada](#) #212 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada](#) #304 in [Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage](#)

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 4 - 10

Customer Reviews

The Boy in the Picture is a worthwhile addition to school and public libraries across the country (Canadian Materials Magazine) It is, admittedly, a book aimed at younger readers, but don't let that sway you. It is still highly readable, and it will help to shed new light on the construction of the railway 125 years ago. (Victoria Times-Colonist) Mr. Argyle tells this Boys Own tale superbly. But then he lived a Tom Sawyer life himself, quitting school at 16 and roaming the country. (Globe and Mail)

Edward Mallandaine had just turned 18 when he left his home to help the Canadian militia fight Louis Riel. He crossed the province as a Royal Mail carrier, following the unfinished stretches of railway before ending up in Craigellachie just in time for the driving of the last spike. To prove it, he thrust himself into the historical photograph.

This book tells the story of an amazing young man who lived a hundred years ago who had a grand adventure participating in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The story (all true, incidentally) is based upon the remarkable "Last Spike" photograph taken when the east and west tracks of the railroad were joined. The photograph (famous) is very similar to the last spike ceremony that took place when the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific railroads met at Promontory Point, Utah. Except, in this near-identical scene, there is the head of a boy sticking out from behind the dignitaries. This is the boy who helped build the railroad, and who persevered riding a flat car through a blizzard to be there to see the finishing of the railroad. A wonderful bit of history, and the book presents it very well and accurately.

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