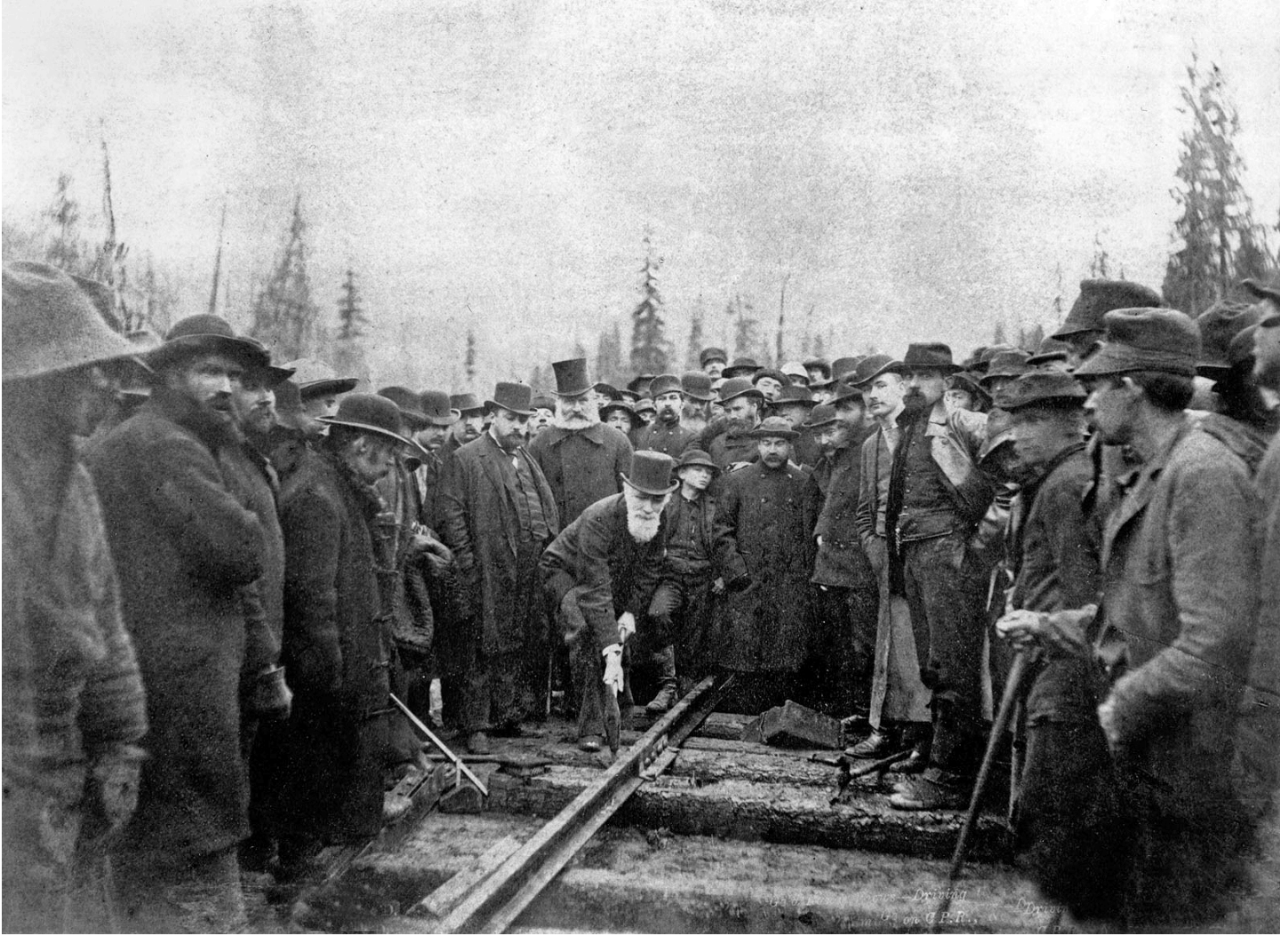


Stop #1: 822 HILLCREST AV SW
Canada's Railway: A Lifeline for New Immigrants

Mr. Burima's Notes

- Originally built in 1910
- This house has changed hands through the years, but originally it was home to home of Major Duncan Stuart and May Stuart. Stuart was a military leader and served in WWI.
- BUT, one of the things that I love about Stuart's story was that he was actually present at what is called "The Last Spike" photograph. It's a photo of man hammering in the last spike in the Canadian railway system.
- In 1885, the railway finally stretched from sea to sea, and really is an incredible feat.
- The Canadian government wanted it to bring Canada together. There were a bunch of people over in what we now call British Columbia and they said that if the government built a railway line, they would join the country. They were worried about a little country called The United States of America.
- It was incredibly difficult to build. If you remember from our maps of Canada, what do you think some of the challenges might be building a railway from the Maritimes, so on the far east side around Halifax, Nova Scotia, all the way to Vancouver.
 - o Mountains.
 - o Muskeg – basically just swamp land.
 - o Blackflies
 - o Extreme temperatures
- Incredibly dangerous. The Canadian Government and CPR brought in thousands of workers from China. In fact, they brought in over 15000 workers
 - o Chinese labourers worked for \$1.00 a day, and from this \$1.00 the workers had to still pay for their food and their camping and cooking gear.
 - o White workers did not have to pay for these things even though they were paid more money (\$1.50-\$2.50 per day).
 - o Most dangerous work: blasting tunnels through rocks, accidents, fires, landslides, dynamite accidents.
 - o There was no proper medical care.
- The railway really is an incredible feat. It stretches for over 17 000 kms. It changed the country, linked everyone together. It meant that supplies and farm products could be sent quickly, tourism became a big industry, especially in the mountains. Cities and towns grew. And guess what, that's how many immigrants many people who arrived to Canada. And they would hear this sound for 100s of kms, 1000s sometimes.

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Questions/Activities

1. Take a moment to quietly jot down anything from the introduction that grabbed your attention, as well as any questions you might have.
2. What words would *you* use to describe a train ride across Canada over 100 years ago? What does it sound like? Feel like? Smell like? On your own, write down some “juicy words” to describe a train ride.
3. Take a look at the child behind the man hammering the spike. What do you think he is doing there? What might he be thinking? *(Consider individually and, then share as a group)*
4. The man hammering in the last spike was named Lord Donald A. Smith. He was one of the owners of the CPR. Why do you think he put in the last spike, and not one of the Chinese Immigration railway workers? *(Consider individually and, then share as a group)*