

ORIGINAL
By
J. MITCHELL
Not Revised

THE OLD CEMETERY

OKANAGAN CENTRE - WINFIELD

1906 - 1975

LOCATION

CEMETERY ROAD - SOUTH OFF DAVIDSON ROAD

AT THE CREST OF THE HILL

A RESEARCH PROJECT

1988

by

MISS JACKIE MITCHELL

for

LAKE COUNTRY HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY

funded by

CHALLENGE '88

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WINFIELD CEMETERY

The land we call the 'Old Cemetery' is owned by the Okanagan Valley Land Company Limited. The Regional District carry the same owner, care of the Crown Trust as the owners. We have on file a copy of a letter, June 1974 stating that neither the Okanagan Valley Land Co. nor Crown Trust have any beneficial interest in the land.

Going back in history we also have on file a copy of a 'Deed of Land' with attached documents transferring this land to the Okanagan Centre Cemetery Board. Apparently this was never registered in Kamloops.

The actual use of the Cemetery can be traced back a fair way, indicating that between 1906 and 1908 the Maddock Bros. (original owners of the Land Co.) gave a lot of land for the cemetery 'where several bodies had been buried'. Between 1908 and 1918 there were several meetings called to organize the Cemetery but lack of attendance prevented this, until Dec. 28, 1918. At this time a formal meeting was held at the Woods Lake School House, now the Winfield Memorial Hall electing three trustees. Mr. J. Goldie, Mr. P.W. Pixton, and Mr. S. Edwards, these gentlemen were requested to obtain the Deed to the property, to have the land surveyed and cleaned up, as well as mark out the plots. They were also asked to report their expenses at a later public meeting, when the issue of raising funds to pay these expenses would be raised.

Shortly after the first meeting, trustee S. Edwards left for New Zealand and Mr. F.G. Baker was appointed.

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The trustees had three acres of land surveyed and a little more than a quarter was marked out for graves. This project cost them forty-four dollars. Some men were then employed to clean-up the land, costing seventy-seven dollars.

Following these activities the newly surveyed portion of the land's subsoil was found to be hard pan. Many of the people of the Community then desired a new area for the graves, but due to the expenses all already incurred this was unfeasible. A portion of the land was found to be usable and would probably last for several years to come, so the trustees decided to use this and sell the plots at eight dollars a piece. This money would be put towards the debit, incurred by the trustees and future expenses.

The Cemetery was one of the many responsibilities of the Farmers Institute and they took on the debit but as time passed wished to pass on the Cemetery to another organization better equipped to deal with it. One of the major problems we understand was the collecting of the plot fees, it was thought that the ladies branch of this organization might have more luck in the collection department and were asked to take the Cemetery management over. That has been the last known record of the Cemetery because the records were destroyed in a fire at a Mr. Berry's home around '1928-1930'.

The Cemetery to date contains to our knowledge Twenty-eight known graves, ten other graves, and five other suspected sites we have a total of thirty-five known residents, five of which are Japanese.

Please understand the information collected to write this paper was done from memories and hear-say, so corrections and revisions are more than welcome.

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- 1) BILL NEWMAN 1908-1975 65 yrs.
Mr. Newman grew up and went to school in Vancouver. He moved to the Okanagan where he married Anne Cook, daughter of Andrew and Jane Cook. They lived in Okanagan Centre where he worked in orchards. They later moved to Penticton for a short period, before returning to Winfield where Mr. Newman passed away in 1975.
- 2) JANE WALMSLEY 1888-1964 76 yrs.
Mrs. Walmsley came to this area to help her family after the passing of Mrs. Andrew Cook. She then married Mr. Thomas Walmsley at a later date.
- 3) THOMAS EDWIN WALMSLEY 1874-1960 86 yrs.
Andrew Cook's brother-in-law, was already settled in Winfield when the Cook's arrived. Later he sold his orchard and moved to the lower mainland where he resided until his passing.
- 4) ANDREW JOHNSTON COOK 1892-1972 80 yrs.
Andrew Cook arrived in Winfield in 1928, he brought with him his wife and children. He worked on his orchard until W. W. II, after which he worked on the irrigation system.
- 5) FREDRICK STARK 1859-1936 77 yrs.
Mr. Stark was the cabinet maker for the area. As well as being an excellent craftsman, Mr. Stark was by all accounts a superb violinist, which he played at community affairs. The following Mary Edmunds was also his daughter.
MARY EDMUNDS 1890-1975 85 yrs.
Mrs. Edmunds was the wife of George Edmunds and the mother of four children.

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6) LIZA LIDSTONE 1871-1936 65 yrs.

Liza (Baldwin) Lidstone moved here in 1908 with her husband and two remaining children. Mrs. Lidstone was born and raised in Ontario. The Lidstone's had three children Eva, Clifford, and Ray, Clifford had pasted away before they had left Ontario.

7) JANE GALL COOK 1895-1933 38 yrs.

Mrs. Cook pasted away at a young age leaving seven children and her husband.

8) JOB RICHARDS 1867-1926 59 yrs.

Mr. Richards worked for many years for the Okanagan Land Company.

CARRIE WRIGHT 1872-1926 59 yrs.

From the way the headstone reads we assumed that Carrie Wright was Job Richards wife. So therefore we believe that Wright was her maiden name.

9) FUMI KOYAMA 1893-1930 47 yrs.

Mrs. Koyama came to Canada from Japan in 1912 to marry Eigiyo Koyama, who was the foreman of the Goldstream Ranch. The couple moved the present Takenka farm in Winfield in 1916. Mrs. Koyama died of pneumonia a few weeks after the birth of her tenth child.

MASAE KOYAMA 1930

Masae the tenth Koyama child, died in a house fire. Prior to this tragedy she had been residing with her aunt and uncle.

10) OTOKICHI NAGAO

Mr. Nagao worked for Tom Duggan on Camp Road. He was buried next to Mrs. Koyama and her daughter, but there is no official headstone or marker.

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- 11) ABRAHAM CODE 1842-1912 70 yrs.
- 12) MABLE MORI 1924-1928 4 yrs.
Miss Mori died in childhood, she was the fourth child of Mr. and Mrs. Mori. At that time her parents were occupied as cooks for the Rainbow Ranche and Rainbow Packing House.
- 13) JOSEPH MALLOY 1863-1908 45 yrs.
Dr. Malloy was the first doctor in this area from the turn of the century until his death in 1908.
- 14), 15), 16), 17), are marked out graves of rocks without headstones scripted or otherwise.
- 18) ALEXANDER PURVES 1893-1924 31 yrs.
Mr. Purves grew up in this area, and was a builder in business with his father. The family moved to Vernon, and Alex passed away a few years later in Clearwater. His wife brought him back to Winfield to be buried.
- 19) This is a small child's grave, and again this site is marked out with rocks with large rocks at either end of the grave.
- 20) NANCY HISAE TAKENAKA 1935-1936
Miss Takenaka was the eldest child of her family, however she passed away when she was eleven months old.
- 21) BABY TAKEDA

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Mr. Ito owned an orchard on Okanagan Centre Road. While transporting fruit by democrat to the Vernon Fruit Union in Winfield, his horse shied and he was kicked in the head. He later died due to this injuries in hospital.
- 23) MAGOTARO TABUCHI 51 yrs.
Mr. Tabuchi worked for Mr. Powley growing onions on the present day "Pheasant Call" subdivision and also on hayland across Meadow Road. From Mr. Tabuchi's headstone it was discovered that he had been under gone a Buddhist ceremony.
- 24) JAMES LIDSTONE 1866-1931 65 yrs.
Mr. Lidstone moved to this area in 1908 with his wife and two children, from his native Ontario. Mr. Lidstone worked on road construction as a foreman.
- 25) BABY ANDREW COOK Winter 1931
Baby Andrew died of pneumonia when he was only a few months old.
- 26) MARY COPELAND 1839-1928 89 yrs.
- 27) Once again we have no clues as to the resident of this plot. Except for a rock border.
- 28) FREDRICK CLEMENTS BAKER 1858-1932 74 yrs.
Mr. Baker came from Manitoba about 1906. He bought twenty acres North of the Roman Catholic Church and cleared a fair portion of it. As well he was busy helping to construct other houses in the area.

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- 29) This dual plot again has unknown residents but has some intriguing features. For instance these plots are facing south with what would appear to be cement slab headstones at the north end of the plots. At one time these headstones had writing but with age it has worn away.
- 30) This dual plot like it's neighbouring plot contains unknown occupants. And except for, four wooden posts this plot could easily of been over looked for it is devoid of any type of headstones or rock markers.
- 31) HATSUE NISHIEKE 4 yr old girl.
- 32) JOSEPH WENTWORTH 1881-1922 41 yrs.
Mr. Wentworth was originally from England, he and his brother moved to the Canadian Prairies in 1910. They then moved to the Okanagan and started an orchard together. Joseph was a soldier in W.W. II, he died in 1922 due to injuries incurred during the war.
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The following are also residents of our cemetery, and although their plots are unknown we can at least give them the benefit of recognition. Unlike many other occupants who remain anonymous.

1) BABY LANCE McCARTHY 1929

It was suspected to be a crib death, he was only a few days old.

2) HORNSNELL (GIRL) 9 yrs late 1920's

She was with her family on the Commonage when her clothes caught fire.

3) SUTHERLAND (BOY) 14 yrs about 1934

He drown on the south end of Woods Lake at that time known as Petrie's Corner. His family worked for the Okanagan Valley Land Co..

The next four names were mentioned on one of the few pieces of paper with reference to the Cemetery.

- 1) McCARTHY 1924 assumed to be a child.
- 2) CLARK 1924
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1) Mr. and Mrs. BRADY late 1930's

The Brady's lived in this area but moved to Vancouver. They then became well known visitors to the area, and it was on one of these trips that Mrs. Brady passed away.

2) JACK BAKER (F.C. Baker's #28s brother)

Mr. Baker joined his brother from the Klondyke and farmed a small mixed farm. From all accounts Mr. J. Baker was a clever blacksmith, clock and watch repairer, as well as barber.

3) VICTOR BOROIT before 1955

It has also been suggested that Mr. Boroit has been buried in this Cemetery, although I believe that information is incorrect for the following reasons; VICTOR BOROIT was the son of a French immigrant who owned a ranch near Kamloops. His mother was the sister of Chief Pantherhead, and with Victor's father's death in the Franco-Prussian War moved back to the reserve. She then married Chief Enoch, and Victor eventually married a G.W Simpson and lived on the Duck Lake Reserve. Mr. Boroit passed away prior to 1955. I believe that Mr. Boroit would of been buried in the Native Cemetery quite close to his residents, and because of his heritage.

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- 2) Jane Walmsley 1888-1964 76 yrs.
- 3) Tom Walmsley 1874-1960 86 yrs.
- 4) Andrew Cook 1892-1972 80 yrs.
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- 6) Liza Lidstone 1871-1936 65 yrs.
- 7) Jane Cook 1895-1933 38 yrs.
- 8) Job Richards 1867-1926 59 yrs.
Carrie Wright 1872-1925 53 yrs.
- 9) Fumi Koyama Sept. 5 1893- Feb. 7 1930 37 yrs.
Masae Koyama Jan. 28 1930- May 15 1930
- 10) Otokichi Nagao
- 11) Abraham Code Mar. 24 1842- May 13 1912 70 yrs.
- 12) Mable Mori 1924- May 9 1928 4 yrs.
- 13) Joseph Malloy Dec. 27 1863- Jan. 23 1908 45 yrs.
- 14) ?
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- 21) Baby Takeda
- 22) Yoshito Ito Jan. 20 1887- June 28 1935 48 yrs.
- 23) Magataro Tabuchi 51 yrs.
- 24) James Lidstone 1866-1931 65 yrs.
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- 31) Hatsue Nishieke
- 32) Joseph Wentworth 1881- June 3 1922 41 yrs.
- 33) Charles Clark 1885- Dec. 3 1923 38 yrs.

Burials with Unknown Plots

- 1) Baby Lance McCarthy 1929, just a few days old.
- 2) Hornsnell (Girl) late 1920's 9 yrs.
- 3) Sutherland (Boy) 1934 14 yrs.
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Suggested Burials

- 1) Mr. & Mrs. Brady
- 2) Jack Baker
- 3) Victor Boroit
- 4) John McCallum

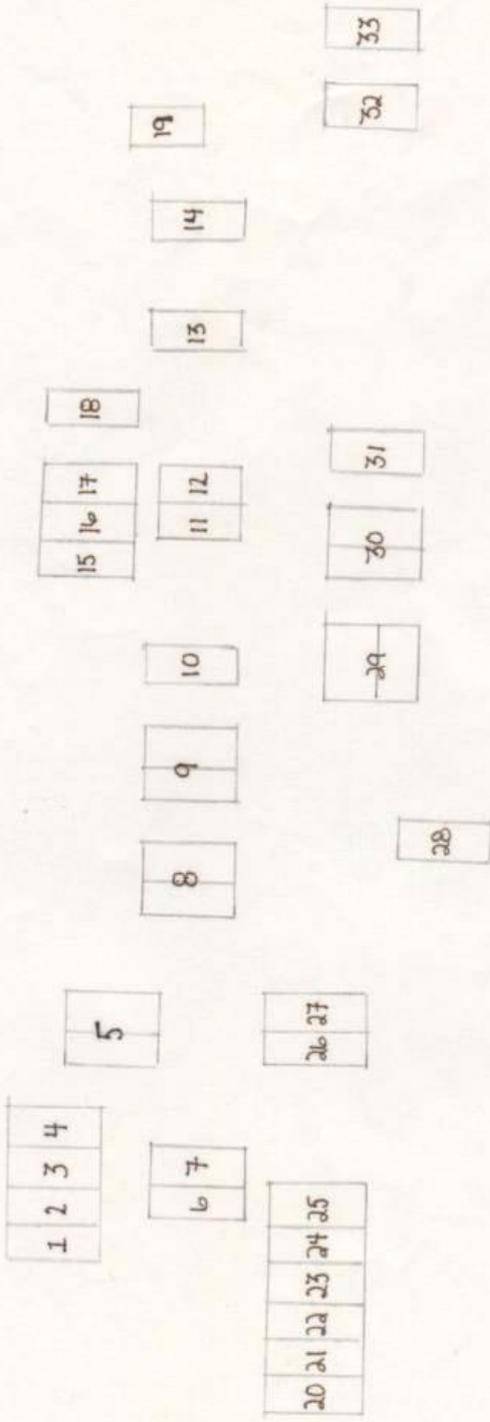
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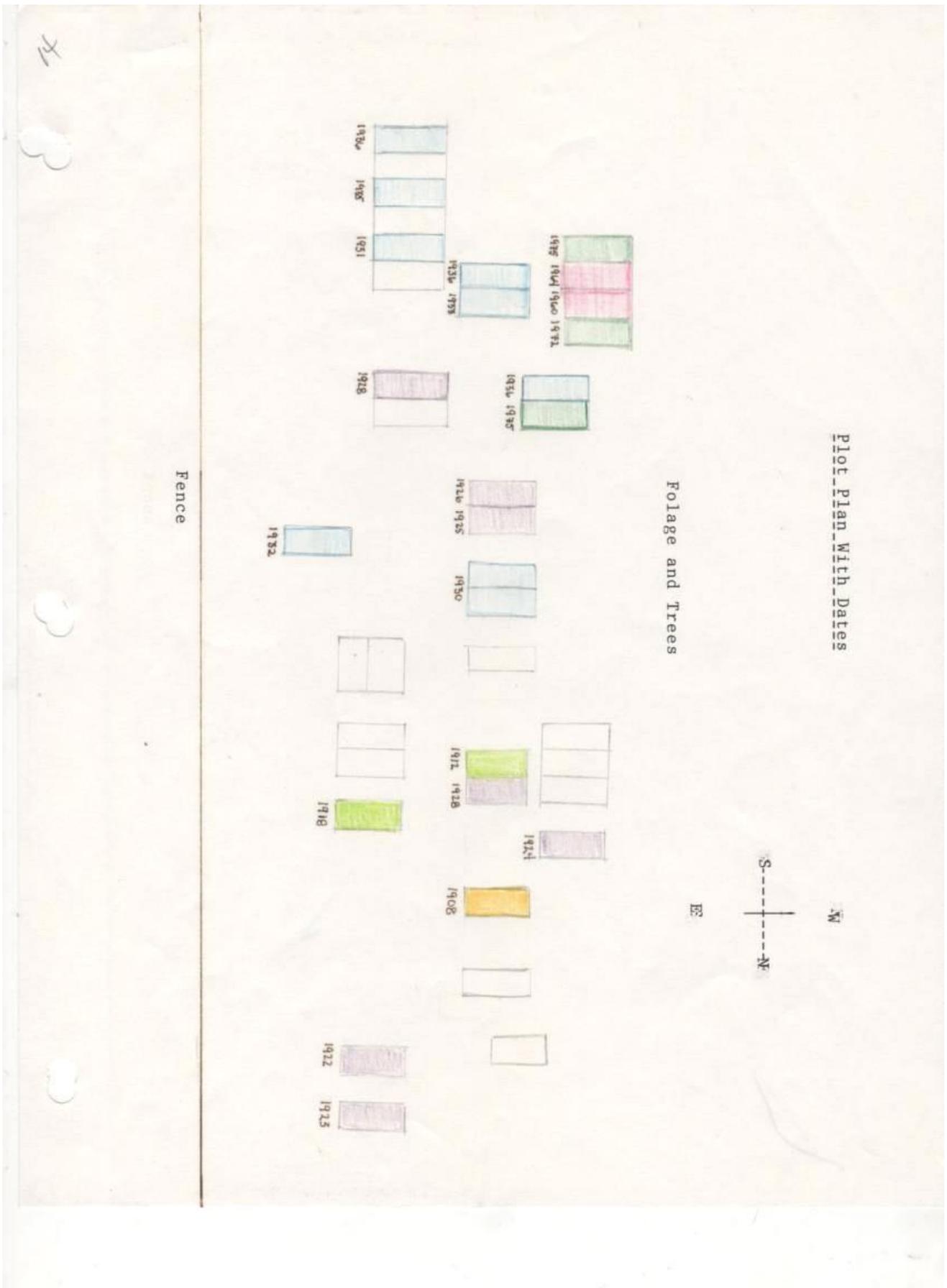
Plot Plan With Numbers



Folage and Trees



Fence



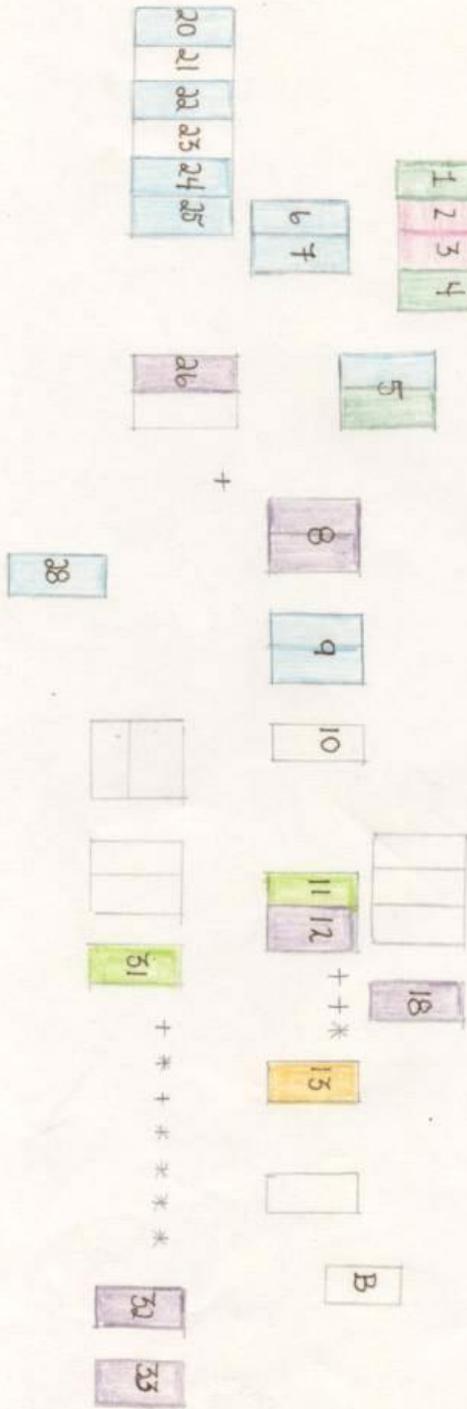
Sites With Known Persons And Dates
and
Suggested Sites

Legend

- * Potential Sites
- + Suspected Sites
- 1900-1910
- 1910-1920
- 1920-1930
- 1930-1940
- 1960's
- 1970's

Folage and Trees

Fence



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WINFIELD CEMETERY

The history of the Cemetery is very vague but I believe with each year an attempt should be made to try and unravel a little more of the mystery. The time will come, unfortunately when no one will remember any of the details of our history without the benefit of papers such as this one and the earlier papers which gave me my start. I would like to thank the following people for their help:

- LAURA WALKER
- HEBER and HILDA MITCHELL
- MARION GIBBONS
- ANNE NEWMAN
- BILL and JEAN VENESS
- JACK McCARTHY
- MR. and MRS. TAKENAKA

and the others before me who gave me such a good start. Then again we cannot forget those who are buried in our Cemetery for they were the pioneers who built Lake Country, Throughout this paper I have made reference to 'our Cemetery' for this Cemetery does belong to the Communities in which we reside and is in a unique and peaceful area which is well worth a visit.

THANK YOU,

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- BILL & JEAN VENESS
- JACK McCARTHY

and the others before me who gave me such a good start. Then again we cannot forget to thank those who reside in our Cemetery for they were the pioneers who built Lake Country.

Through-out this paper I have made reference to "our Cemetery" for this Cemetery does belong to the Communities in which we reside and is in a unique and peaceful area which is well worth a visit.

THANK-YOU

JACKIE MITCHELL.

August-25-11
10:03 AM

