

The Historical Background of the Old
Winfield Cemetery
Carolyn Goodman
Summer 1978

MS 21

This summer (1978) the Winfield Cemetery Board hired three students (myself as one) to work on the cleaning up of the two Winfield Cemeteries. Both cemeteries have now been cleaned and a picket fence was put up around the old cemetery. The Winfield Fire Hall and the Lion's Club of Winfield plan to keep the two cemeteries in good order.

This essay has not turned out as informative and complete as at first hoped. This is due to the fact that many of Winfield's older residents have long since departed. Records passed from generation to generation are usually vague and varied in content. The provincial and federal government agencies in the area have been questioned as well as the Vernon and Kelowna branches of the Okanagan Historical Society. However, they could not add any new information as to the history of the old Winfield Cemetery.

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It has been nearly two hundred years since the Okanagan Valley was first discovered by white men. David Stuart and a party were travelling north and entered the valley at Penticton. They were so impressed with the beauty of the area that they decided to settle the area. The Kelowna area was soon settled as the abundance of fish and game made it an ideal place. Soon after, the entire valley was dotted here and there with small farms and orchards.

The first settler to arrive in the Winfield area was Thomas Wood. The year was 1871 and he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of what would later be the beginnings of a three thousand acre hold.

The beginnings of the old Winfield Cemetery are not well recorded. In fact, the Cemetery's history is very vague and probably unknown. The Old Winfield Cemetery is located on Cemetery Road in Winfield. Today the Cemetery is almost hidden by orchards and farms which have sprung up around it. The Cemetery covers approximately one acre of land and is well forested with many pine trees and bushes covering the grounds.

The land that the Cemetery is located on, originally belonged to the Okanagan Land Company. A man named Sam Tyndell bought the land as part of a ten acre package during the 1920's and later sold the land to the Winfield Irrigation District. After that however, there are no records of any transactions to buy or sell the land, so no

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one seems to know who owns it. (The farms and orchards surrounding the cemetery are all privately owned so one may presume that the cemetery is public property belonging to the district of Winfield.)

The cemetery consists of twenty three marked graves (plots with headstones), and approximately twenty six unmarked graves. Some of the unmarked graves are very obvious, ie. marked out with rock etc., while others are ~~marked~~ ^{marked} ~~out~~ which are barely noticeable. Please note that I have suggested only approximately twenty six unmarked graves. This is due to the fact that I am only guessing as to the locations of some of the unmarked plots.

The earliest marked grave in the cemetery is that of Joseph Malloy, who was buried in the cemetery in 1908. Joseph Malloy was the Doctor for this area until his death in 1908. The second oldest marked grave is that of Abe Cody who died in 1912. These two graves are probably not the oldest in the cemetery, however, the names and dates of the unmarked graves are so far unknown.

~~AM~~ In the cemetery, there are twenty three marked graves. ^{many of which} These graves all have headstones, although some are in Japanese script. Of the marked and readable graves only some were remembered as members of the community. The following are brief summaries of the ~~remembered~~ ^{known} graves.

ANDREW JOHNSTON COOK 1892-1971

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Within the cemetery, there are twenty three marked graves. These graves all have headstones, many of which are in Japanese script. Of the marked and readable graves only some were remembered as members of the community. The following are brief summaries of these people.

ANDREW JOHNSTON COOK 1892-1971

Andrew Cook arrived in Winfield in 1928, he brought with him, a wife and children. He worked

on his orchard until the second World War, after which he worked on the irrigation system.

JANE GAIL COOK 1895 - 1933

Andrew Cook's wife, when she died she left seven children.

BABY ANDREW COOK

Died of pneumonia when he was a few months old.

THOMAS EDWIN WALMSLEY 1874 - 1960

Andrew Cook's brother-in-law, was already settled in Winfield by 1928 when the Cook's arrived. Sold his orchard and moved to the lower mainland where he lived until he died.

JANET M. WALMSLEY 1888 - 1964

Thomas Walmsley's wife and sister to Andrew Cook. She moved back to Winfield after her husband's death until her death in 1964.

BILL NEWMAN 1908 - 1975

He grew up and went to school in Vancouver. He moved to the Okanagan where he married Anne Cook, daughter of Andrew Cook. They lived in Okanagan Centre where he worked on orchards. They moved to Penticton for a while but returned to Winfield before he died in 1975.

JOSEPH WENTWORTH 1881 - 1922

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JOSEPH WENTWORTH 1881-1922

Joseph 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 Wentworth was a soldier in WWI, he died in 1922.

FREDRICK STARK 1859 - 1936

Fred Stark was the cabinetmaker for the area.

He had a daughter whose married name was Mary Edmunds. As well as being an excellent cabinet maker, Fred Stark was by all accounts an superb violinist which he played at community affairs.

JOSEPH ARTHUR MALLOY 1863 - 1908

Joe Malloy was the doctor for this area from the turn of the century until his death in 1908.

ALEXANDER PURVES 1893 - 1925

Alex Purves grew up in this area, and was a builder in business with his father. The family moved to Vernon, and Alex Purves was killed a few years later in Clearbrook. His wife brought his body back to Winfield where he was buried in the old Winfield Cemetery.

FREDRICK CLEMENTS BAKER 1858 - 1932

Fred Baker lived in Okanagan Center from the turn of the century until his death in 1932. He did carpenter work for the area. He built himself an elaborate house overlooking the Okanagan Center Wharf. This house still stands today.

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MARY VERA EDMUNDS

Daughter to Fred Stark.

NANCY HISAE TAKENAKA 1935 - 1936

Nancy Takenaka was to be the eldest child of the Takenaka family however, she was killed when she was only a few months old.

The last burial in the cemetery was in 1975, when both Bill Newman and Mary Edmunds were buried there. Over the years the cemetery has had little use as people rather preferred the more centrally located Newene Road Cemetery.

The Newene Road Cemetery is located just off Highway 97 near the central part of Winfield. It covers a larger area than the old cemetery and has twice as many people buried there. The cemetery is very plain consisting of headstones and bare earth surrounded by a picket fence. It does not seem to have the tranquil character and peaceful air of the old cemetery.

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that I talked to. Please note that these are only suggestions
as to people buried there and may not be too accurate.

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2. Victor Boriot
3. William Lodge
4. Jack Baker
5. F. Brady and Mrs. F. Brady

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The size and population has increased substantially since the area was first settled in the early 1900's. This increase has in turn affected the size of both Cemeteries. The Newene Road Cemetery has been more extensively used than the old Winfield Cemetery on Cemetery Road; this is due probably to locational factors. Newene Road is located close to the downtown section of Winfield while the old Cemetery is located in the farm and orchard section of the town.

The total number of plots in the old Cemetery is forty six, this is a round figure which encompasses both the marked and possible unmarked graves. The Newene Road Cemetery has a total of 89 plots. As one can see by these figures the Newene Road Cemetery has been more extensively used than the old cemetery. Even so, these figures are not a good indication of the relative population in the area, as many Winfield residents have been buried in Kelowna cemeteries or in quiet, peaceful wooded areas.

The Cemetery Road cemetery in my opinion is the nicer of the two cemeteries. The location is quiet and peaceful; and surrounded by many trees and bushes. Newene Road is out in the open with no trees, and it is located near a busy highway.

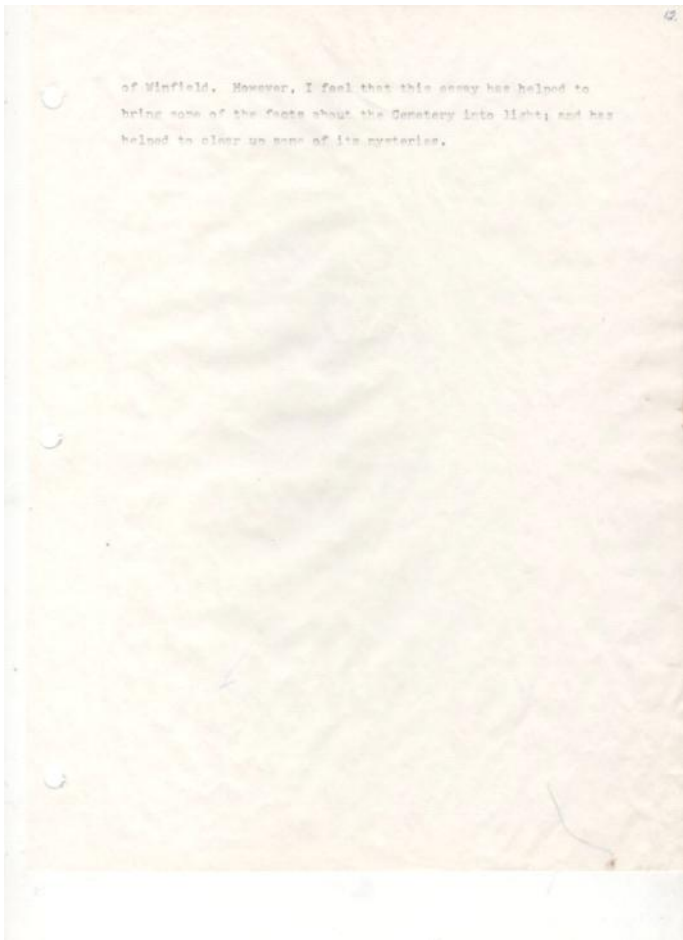
The history of the old Cemetery is very vague and unsubstantial due to the fact that many of Winfield's older residents have passed on, and the ones that are left were very young at the time of the beginnings of the community

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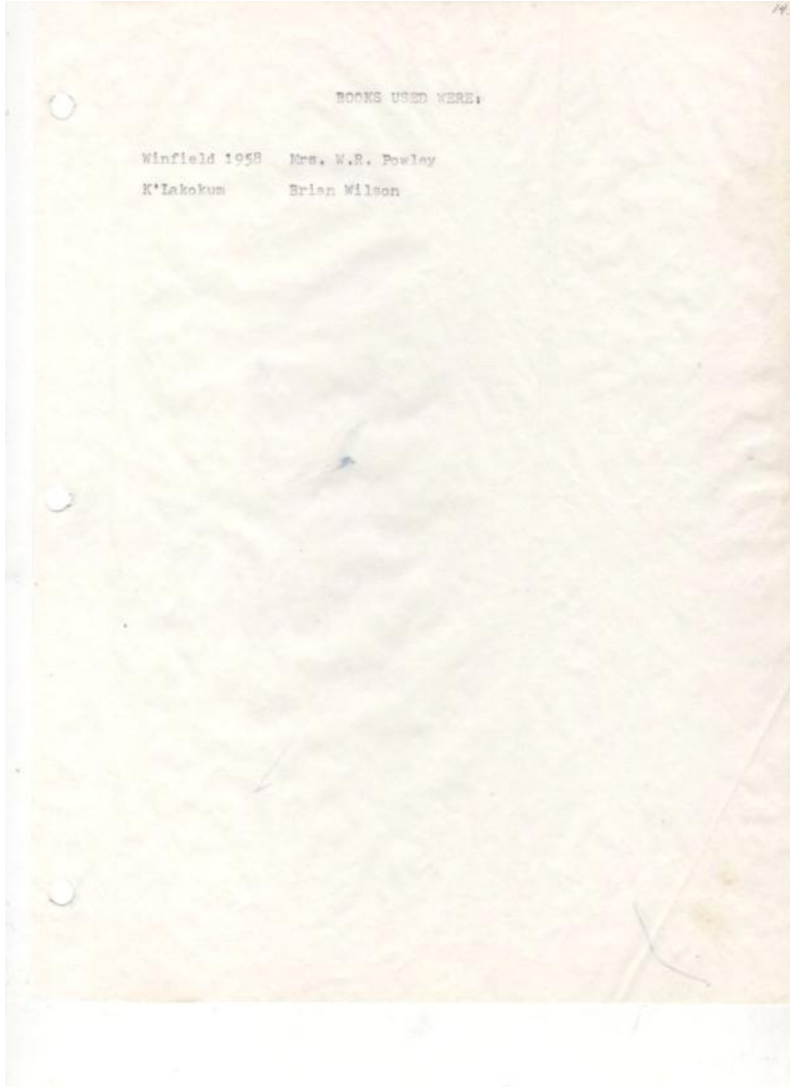


of Winfield. However, I feel that this essay has helped to bring some of the facts about the Cemetery into light; and has helped to clear up some of its mysteries.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks to all the people I talked with over the past two months. A special thanks goes to Mrs. Anne Newman who helped me to get started.

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BOOKS USED WERE:
Winfield 1958 Mrs. W.R. Powley
K'Lakokum Brian Wilson