

The Gibbons Family

**Genealogy
and
Life in the Okanagan**



by Katie Gibbons
Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society
Challenge Project 2005

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Acknowledgments and Explanations

This essay is about the Gibbons family members. It was to be a genealogy report, taken from the beginnings of a family tree. But, as the family tree grew larger and larger, the direction in the essay changed a bit. The first part of the essay is my knowledge on the family tree. Then there are my notations on some family members of whom I received information. The second part of the report was done to pertain to Lake Country and it's history. It is the story of who came to the Okanagan, where they worked, where they lived, what they did for enjoyment, and their children. Hopefully (because most people will not be interested in the Gibbons specifically), this will give you a general idea of what life was like in the Okanagan beginning in the 1920s, through the eyes of my family's men, women, and children. I imagine many of the people in Lake Country have a similar history to tell.

I will continue to add to the family tree, but for now this is what I have discovered through the interviews and documents of my family.

In thanks for helping me with this essay, I would like to acknowledge the following:

Richard Gibbons (Uncle Rich), thank you for the childhood stories, they were thoroughly enjoyable and very useful.

Sharon Laing (Auntie Sharon), thank you for supporting me with the museum and the essay. I appreciate the work you put in aiding me with gathering this history.

Glen and Karen Gibbons (Dad and Mom), thank you for the information, support, ideas, and help with editing. It was much appreciated.

Marion Gibbons (Great Aunt Mernie), thank you for your time, the pictures, the facts, and the stories I may have never known without your help. You were very gracious to spend all that time with me while I badgered you with questions.

Randy Gibbons, I really appreciate you getting that booklet for me. I'm so glad you took the time to get it to me. It was a huge help!

Maureen Toane, I appreciate the time you put into your booklet and for allowing me to use that information.

Jef Gibbons, thanks for the connections.

Anne Land, thanks for taking time to read it over and share your thoughts.

For my family, my ancestors, everyone today who is or who ever came from a Gibbons, their spouses (welcome to the family!), and to our generations to come, I love you all. You are a part of a large circle of wonderful people; please don't forget.

Sincerely,

Katie Gibbons

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This essay is about the Gibbons family members. It was to be a genealogy report, taken from the beginnings of a family tree. But, as the family tree grew larger and larger, the direction in the essay changed a bit. The first part of the essay is my knowledge on the family tree. Then there are my notations on some family members of whom I received information. The second part of the report was done to pertain to Lake Country and it's history. It is the story of who came to the Okanagan, where they worked, where they lived, what they did for enjoyment, and their children. Hopefully (because most people will not be interested in the Gibbons specifically), this will give you a general idea of what life was like in the Okanagan beginning in the 1920s, through the eyes of my family's men, women, and children. I imagine many of the people in Lake Country have a similar history to tell.

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Sincerely;

Katie Gibbons

August-01-11
11:38 AM

*There is a family tree genealogy chart at this point in the manuscript but it was too big to scan. Please contact the museum for further information.

Descendants of Alexander "Sandy" Gibbons

Generation No. I

1. ALEXANDER "SANDY" GIBBONS (James², John¹) was born March 31, 1832 in Horton Township, Ontario, and died March 19, 1912 in Admaston Township (Northcote), Ontario. He married MARGARET COLE December 03, 1862 at Renfrew, Ontario, daughter of JAMES COLE and MARY LAROCHE. She was born January 16, 1836 in Goulburn Township, Ontario, and died August 16, 1912.

More About ALEXANDER "SANDY" GIBBONS:
Burial: March 21, 1912. Rosebank Cemetery

Children of ALEXANDER GIBBONS and MARGARET COLE are:

2. i. JAMES COLE⁴ GIBBONS, b. March 03, 1865. Renfrew County, Ontario; d. June 26, 1949, Kelowna, British Columbia
- ii. THOMAS GIBBONS.
- iii. JESSIE GIBBONS.
- iv. CATHERINE "KITTY" GIBBONS.
- v. MARY GIBBONS.
- vi. ALEXANDER GIBBONS.
- vii. JOHN GIBBONS.
- viii. EMILY GIBBONS.

Generation No. 2

2. JAMES COLE⁴ GIBBONS (ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 03, 1865 in Renfrew County, Ontario, and died June 26, 1949 in Kelowna, British Columbia. He married LEILA ADA WILLIAMSON November 28 in Brandon, Manitoba, daughter of JAMES WILLIAMSON and KELLY. She was born January 09, 1876 in Watford, Ontario, and died February 01, 1972 in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Notes for JAMES COLE GIBBONS:
Family came from Dauphin. Manitoba.

Children of JAMES GIBBONS and LLEILA WILLIAMSON are:

3. i. MARY LILLIAS "LILY" GIBBONS, b. November 15, 1895, Brandon, Manitoba, d. July 25, 1971.
4. ii. LAWRENCE CLIFFORD GIBBONS, b. July 25, 1897, Brandon, Manitoba, d. January 09, Deer Park Lodge, Manitoba.
5. iii. ETHEL MARGARET GIBBONS, b. December 30, 1899, Brandon, Manitoba.
6. iv. CECIL ROY GIBBONS, b. December 25, 1902, Brandon, Manitoba.
- v. MELVIN "BUD" LESLIE GIBBONS, b. November 19, 1904, Brandon, Manitoba, d. November 21, 1999. Kelowna, British Columbia; m. MINNIE "HAZEL" WALTERS. 1942; b. July 39, 1896, Horsefly, B.C..

Notes for MELVIN 'BUD' LESLIE GIBBONS:
Came to work at the Rainbow Ranche in the 1920s. Moved to Horsefly in the ealry 1930s where he had a cattle ranch and trapline for more than 50 years.

Obituary Calendar, November 24, 1999.

More About MELVIN "BUD" LESLIE GIBBONS:
Fact 2: in latter years, spent the winters with brother Cecil in Okanagan Centre
Occupation: orchard help; ranching

7. vi. LEILA ADA GIBBONS. b. July 07, 1906, Brandon, Manitoba.
8. vii. HARRY LORNE GIBBONS, b. November 25, 1908, Brandon, Manitoba, d. October 27, 1981, Erickson, Manitoba.
9. viii. JAMES CLARE GIBBONS, b. November 11, 1911, Brandon, Manitoba d. November 14, 2000, Lake Country, B.C.
10. ix. WILLARD KELLY GIBBONS. b. October 23, 1912, Brandon, Manitoba.

Descendants of Alexander "Sandy" Gibbons

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Notes for JAMES COLE GIBBONS:
Family came from Dauphin, Manitoba

Children of JAMES GIBBONS and LEILA WILLIAMSON are:

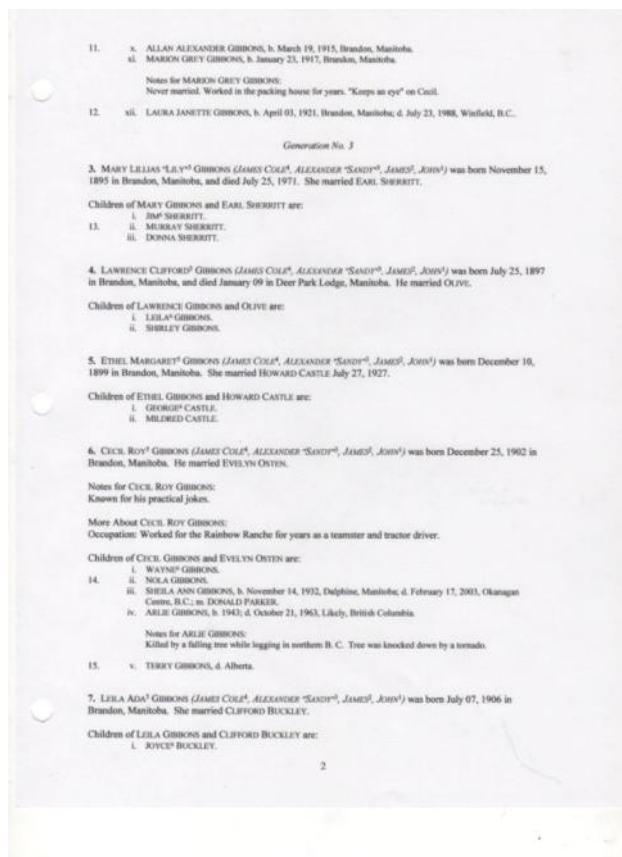
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4. ii. LAWRENCE CLIFFORD GIBBONS, b. July 25, 1897, Brandon, Manitoba; d. January 09, Deer Park Lodge, Manitoba.
5. iii. ETHEL MARGARET GIBBONS, b. December 30, 1899, Brandon, Manitoba.
6. iv. CECIL ROY GIBBONS, b. December 25, 1902, Brandon, Manitoba.
- v. MELVIN "BUD" LESLIE GIBBONS, b. November 19, 1904, Brandon, Manitoba; d. November 21, 1999, Kelowna, British Columbia; m. MINNIE "HAZEL" WALTERS, 1942; b. July 19, 1896, Horsefly, B.C..

Notes for MELVIN "BUD" LESLIE GIBBONS:
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8. vii. HARRY LORNE GIBBONS, b. November 25, 1908, Brandon, Manitoba; d. October 27, 1981, Erickson, Manitoba.
9. viii. JAMES CLARE GIBBONS, b. November 11, 1911, Brandon, Manitoba; d. November 14, 2000, Lake Country, B.C.
10. ix. WILLARD KELLY GIBBONS, b. October 23, 1912, Brandon, Manitoba.



11. x. ALLAN ALEXANDER GIBBONS, b. March 19, 1915, Brandon, Manitoba.
xi. MARION GREY GIBBONS. b. January 23, 1917, Brandon, Manitoba

Notes for MARION GREY GIBBONS:
Never married. Worked in the packing house for years. "Keeps an eye" on Cecil

12. xii. LAURA JANETTE GIBBONS, b. April 03, 1921, Brandon, Manitoba d. July 23, 1988, Winfield, B.C..

Generation No. 3

3. MARY LILLIAS "LILY" GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born November 15, 1895 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died July 25, 1971. She married EARL SHERRITT.

Children of MARY GIBBONS and EARL SHERRITT are:

- i. JIM⁶ SHERRITT.
13. ii. MURRAY SHERRITT.
iii. DONNA SHERRITT.

4. LAWRENCE CLIFFORD GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born July 25, 1897 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died January 09 in Deer Park Lodge, Manitoba. He married OLIVE.

Children of LAWRENCE GIBBONS and OLIVE are:

- i. LEILA GIBBONS.
ii. SHIRLEY GIBBONS.

5. ETHEL MARGARET⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born December 10, 1899 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married HOWARD CASTLE July 27, 1927.

Children of ETHEL GIBBONS and HOWARD CASTLE are:

- i. GEORGE⁶ CASTLE
ii. MILDRED CASTLE.

6. CECIL ROY⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born December 25, 1902 in Brandon, Manitoba He married EVELYN OSTEN.

Notes for CECIL ROY GIBBONS:
Known for his practical jokes.

More About CECIL ROY GIBBONS:
Occupation: Worked for the Rainbow Ranche for years a teamster and tractor driver.

Children of CECIL GIBBONS and EVELYN OSTEN are:

- i. WAYNE⁶ GIBBONS.
14. ii. NOLA GIBBONS.
iii. SHEILA ANN GIBBONS, b. November 14, 1932 Dalphine, Manitoba, d. February 17, 2003, Okanagan Centre B.C.; m. DONALD PARKER.
iv. ARLIE GIBBONS, b. 1943, d. October 21, 1963, Likely, British Columbia.

Notes for ARLIE GIBBONS:
Killed by a falling tree while logging in northern B. C. Tree was knocked down by a tornado.

15. v. TERRY GIBBONS, d. Alberta

7. LEILA ADA⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born July 07, 1906 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married CLIFFORD BUCKLEY.

Children of LEILA GIBBONS and CLIFFORD BUCKLEY are:

- i. JOYCE⁶ BUCKLEY.

- ii. WALLACE BUCKLEY.
- iii. BRUCE BUCKLEY.
- iv. SANDRA BUCKLEY.
- v. LINDA BUCKLEY.
- vi. VALERIE BUCKLEY.

8. HARRY LORNE⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born November 25, 1908 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died October 27, 1981 in Erickson, Manitoba. He married ORMA THOMPSON August 08, 1940.

Children of HARRY GIBBONS and ORMA THOMPSON are:

- i. LORNE⁶ GIBBONS.
- ii. IAN GIBBONS.
- iii. BRIAN GIBBONS.
- iv. BEVERLY GIBBONS, m. BERNIE RADFORD, January 19, 1980.

9. JAMES CLARE⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born November 11, 1911 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died November 14, 2000 in Lake Country, B.C.. He married ROSALIND MARGUERITE "PEGGY" FRIESEN June 08, 1937 in Winfield, B.C., daughter of BEN FRIESEN and KATHERINE "TINA". She was born 1915 in Rush Lake, Saskatchewan, and died November 03, 1994 in Lake Country, B.C..

More About JAMES CLARE GIBBONS:
Occupation: Teamster at the Rainbow Ranch.

Children of JAMES GIBBONS and ROSALIND FRIESEN are:

16. i. SHARON MARGUERITE⁶ GIBBONS, b. February 24, 1941, Kelowna, B.C..
17. ii. RICHARD CLARE GIBBONS, b. February 28, 1945.
18. iii. GLEN ALLAN GIBBONS, b. March 19, 1949, Kelowna, B.C..

10. WILLARD KELLY⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born October 23, 1912 in Brandon, Manitoba. He married JESSIE November 01, 1937.

Children of WILLARD GIBBONS and JESSIE are:

- i. BETTY⁶ GIBBONS.
- ii. LORRAINE GIBBONS.
- iii. KELLY GIBBONS.
- iv. GWEN GIBBONS.
- v. EDITH GIBBONS.

11. ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 19, 1915 in Brandon, Manitoba. He married EDITH MAY GUNN November 19, 1937 in Winfield, B.C.. She was born February 02.

Children of ALLAN GIBBONS and EDITH GUNN are:

19. i. LARRY⁶ GIBBONS.
20. ii. RANDALL MELVIN GIBBONS, b. March 15, 1948.
21. iii. SHELTON GIBBONS.
22. iv. MAUREEN GIBBONS.

12. LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born April 03, 1921 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died July 23, 1988 in Winfield, B.C.. She married ARTHUR WALKER. He died 1963.

Children of LAURA GIBBONS and ARTHUR WALKER are:

23. i. MARK⁶ WALKER.
24. ii. MARGARET WALKER.
25. iii. JAMES WALKER.

3

- ii. WALLACE BUCKLEY.
- iii. BRUCE BUCKLEY.
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More About JAMES CLARE GIBBONS:
Occupation: Teamster at the Rainbow Ranch.

Children of JAMES GIBBONS and ROSALIND FRIESEN are:

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Children of WILLARD GIBBONS and JESSIE are:

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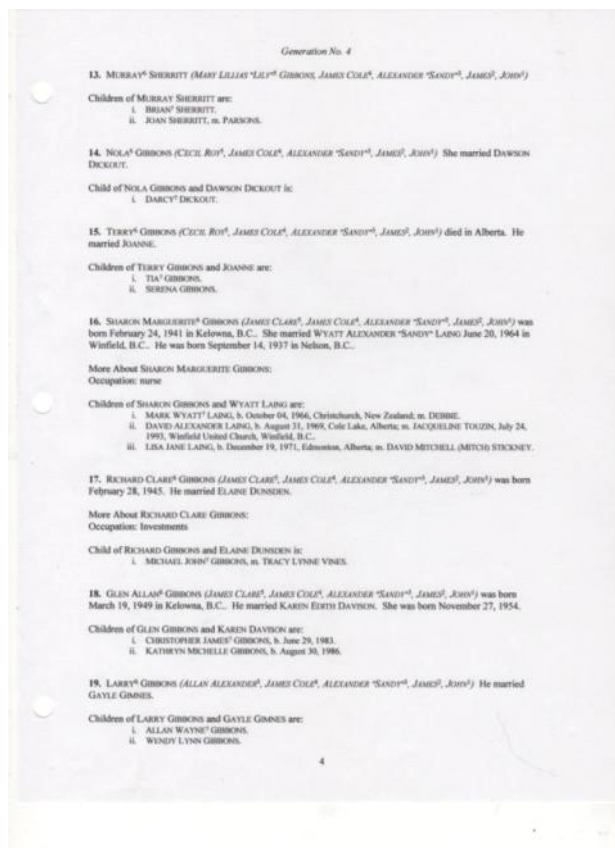
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Children of LAURA GIBBONS and ARTHUR WALKER are:

23. i. MARK WALKER.
24. ii. MARGARET WALKER.
25. iii. JAMES WALKER.



Generation No. 4

13. MURRAY⁶ SHERRITT (MARY LILLIAS "LILY"⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹)

Children of MURRAY SHERRITT are:

- i. BRIAN⁷ SHERRITT.
- ii. JOAN SHERRITT, m. PARSONS.

14. NOLA⁶ GIBBONS (CECIL ROY⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married DAWSON DICKOUT.

Child of NOLA GIBBONS and DAWSON DICKOUT is:

- i. DARCY⁷ DICKOUT.

15. TERRY⁶ GIBBONS (CECIL ROY⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) died in Alberta. He married JOANNE.

Children of TERRY GIBBONS and JOANNE are:

- i. TIA⁷ GIBBONS.
- ii. SERENA GIBBONS.

16. SHARON MARGUERITE⁶ GIBBONS (JAMES CLARE⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born February 24, 1941 in Kelowna, B.C.. She married WYATT ALEXANDER "SANDY" LAING June 20, 1964 in Winfield, B.C.. He was born September 14, 1937 in Nelson, B.C..

More About SHARON MARGUERITE GIBBONS:

Occupation: nurse

Children of SHARON GIBBONS and WYATT LAING are:

- i. MARK WYATT⁷ LAING, b. October 04, 1966. Christchurch, New Zealand; m. DEBBIE.
- ii. DAVID ALEXANDER LAING, b. August 31, 1969. Cole lake, Albata; m. JACQUELINE TOUZIN, July 24, 1993, Winfield United Chirch, Winfield, B.C..
- iii. LISA JANE LAING, b. December 19, 1971, Edmonton, Alberta; m. DAVID MITCHELL (MITCH) STICKNEY.

17. RICHARD CLARE⁶ GIBBONS (JAMES CLARE⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born February 28, 1945. He married ELAINE DUNSDEN.

More About RICHARD CLARE GIBBONS:

Occupation: Investments

Child of RICHARD GIBBONS and ELAINE DUNSDEN is:

- i. MICHAEL JOHN⁷ GIBBONS. m. TRACY LYNNE VINES.

18. GLEN ALLAN⁶ GIBBONS (JAMES CLARE⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 19, 1949 in Kelowna, B.C.. He married KAREN EDITH DAVISON. She was born November 27, 1954.

Children of GLEN GIBBONS and KAREN DAVISON are:

- i. CHRISTOPHER JAMES⁷ GIBBONS, b. June 29. 1983.
- iii. KATHRYN MICHELLE GIBBONS. b. August 30. 1986.

19. LARRY⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) He married GAYLE GIMNES.

Children of LARRY GIBBONS and GAYLE GIMNES are:

- i. ALLAN WAYNE⁷ GIBBONS.
- ii. WENDY LYNN GIBBONS.

20. RANDALL MELVYN⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 15, 1948. He married BARBARA JEANNE GOERTZEN April 10, 1971. She was born January 09, 1948.

Children of RANDALL GIBBONS and BARBARA GOERTZEN are:
i. DARREN RANDALL⁷ GIBBONS, b. October 06, 1974; m. SUSAN.
ii. JEFFREY CHARLES GIBBONS, b. July 30, 1976; m. BECCA.
iii. ALLISON ELIZABETH GIBBONS, b. January 25, 1979; m. JOHN HANTKE.

21. SHELDON⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) He married JANICE SPELAY September 04, 1976.

Children of SHELDON GIBBONS and JANICE SPELAY are:
i. TYSON⁷ GIBBONS.
ii. JANELLE GIBBONS.

22. MAUREEN⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married (1) KENNY. She married (2) GORDY TOANE.

Child of MAUREEN GIBBONS and KENNY is:
i. HOWIE⁷.

23. MARION⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married JACK MCCARTHY.

Children of MARION WALKER and JACK MCCARTHY are:
i. JAYSON⁷ MCCARTHY, m. KIM.
ii. CALVIN MCCARTHY.
iii. MARNI MCCARTHY.
iv. SHANNON MCCARTHY.

24. MARGARET⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married MAL MITCHELL.

Children of MARGARET WALKER and MAL MITCHELL are:
i. JACKIE⁷ MITCHELL.
ii. MIKE MITCHELL.
iii. MAUREEN MITCHELL.
iv. TERRY MITCHELL.

25. JAMES⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) He married LINDA.

Children of JAMES WALKER and LINDA are:
i. TIM⁷ WALKER.
ii. TRACEY WALKER.

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i. TYSON GIBBONS.
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22. MAUREEN⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married (1) KENNY. She married (2) GORDY TOANE.

Child of MAUREEN GIBBONS and KENNY is:
i. HOWIE⁷.

23. MARION⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married JACK MCCARTHY.

Children Of MARION WALKER and JACK MCCARTHY are:
i. JAYSON⁷ MCCARTHY, m. KIM.
ii. CALVIN MCCARTHY.
iii. MARNI MCCARTHY.
iv. SHANNON MCCARTHY.

24. MARGARET⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married MAL MITCHELL.

Children of MARGARET WALKER and MAL MITCHELL are:
i. JACKIE⁶ MITCHELL.
ii. MIKE MITCHELL.
iii. MAUREEN MITCHELL.
iv. TERRY MITCHELL.

25. JAMES⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) He married LINDA.

Children of JAMES WALKER and LINDA we:
i. TIM⁷ WALKER.
ii. TRACEY WALKER.

**The Gibbons Family
Genealogy**

Generation 1

James Gibbons and Lillias Bowes

James was born on February 11, 1799 in England. He married Lillias Bowes who was born in 1794 in Campsie, Scotland. They traveled to Canada in the 1820s or 1830s. James passed away on March 26, 1879, and Lillias on July 2, 1891 in Horton Township, Ontario.

Generation 2

Alexander "Sandy" Gibbons and Margaret Cole

Sandy was born on March 31, 1832 in Horton Township, Ontario. On December 3, 1862, he married Margaret Cole in Renfrew, Ontario. Margaret was born to James Ezekiel Cole and Mary LaRoche on January 16, 1836, in Goulburn Township, Ontario. Sandy, father to James Cole Gibbons, passed away on March 19, 1912 in Admaston Township, Northcote, Ontario. Margaret passed away on August 16, 1912.

Generation 3

James Cole Gibbons and Lila Ada Williamson

James was born on March 3, 1865, in Brentford, Ontario. His family later moved to Dauphin, Manitoba, where he and his siblings grew up. They were: Jessie, Mary, Catherine, Thomas, Alexander, John, and Emily.

Meanwhile, Lila Ada Williamson was born on January 9, 1876 in Watford, Ontario, to James and Kelly Williamson. Their family later moved to Manitoba. Her siblings were: Ben, Lew, Will, and Louise. She and James Gibbons met and married, and decided to settle on a farm in Brandon, Manitoba. Over the next twenty-six years, they had twelve children: Mary Lily, Lawrence Clifford, Ethel Margaret, Cecil Roy, Melvin

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Leslie, Leila Ada, Harry Lorne, James Clare, Willard Kelly, Allan Alexander, Marion Grey, and finally, Laura Janette Gibbons.

Generation 4

Descendants of James and Lila Gibbons

Mary Lily Gibbons

Known to everyone by her middle name, "Lily" was born on November 15, 1895 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married Earl Sherritt and had three children: Jim, Murray, and Donna Sherritt. Lily worked a 24 hour a day job raising her three children.

Lawrence Clifford Gibbons

Lawrence was born on July 25, 1897 in Brandon, Manitoba. At sixteen years of age, Lawrence joined the military. He fought with Canadians as part of the Allied Expeditionary Force, and they fought in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. He was injured and ended up in a hospital in England. He was discharged in 1918 and went home to Manitoba. He met and married Olive and they had two children: Leila and Shirley Gibbons. Lawrence, Olive, and the children lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Lawrence became a mechanic and owned a garage. In 1998, Lawrence received France's highest military honour for fighting at Vimy Ridge.

Ethel Margaret Gibbons

Ethel was born on December 10, 1899 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married Howard Castle and they had two children: George and Mildred Castle. They lived in Manitoba and owned and operated a huge farm. The family sometimes spent their winters in Winfield, visiting family.

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Cecil Roy Gibbons

Cecil was born on December 25, 1902 in Brandon, Manitoba. Cecil came to Okanagan Centre and worked at the Rainbow Ranch for years as a teamster and tractor driver. He also drove heavy machinery to build roads. He married Evelyn and they had five children: Wayne, Nola, Sheila Ann, Arlie, and Terry Gibbons.

Melvin Leslie Gibbons

"Bud" was born on November 19, 1904 in Brandon, Manitoba. He came to work at the Rainbow Ranch in the mid 1920s helping in the orchards. Then Bud moved to Horsefly, B.C. in the early 1930s where he had a cattle ranch and trap line for more than fifty years. He met Minnie "Hazel" Walters, who was born July 19, 1896. Bud married Hazel in 1942 and together they owned and operated a small store. Later, Bud trapped and ranched. In Bud's later years, after Hazel had passed away, he spent a lot of time with his older brother Cecil in Okanagan Centre.

Leila Ada Gibbons

Leila was born on July 7, 1906 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married Clifford Buckley and they had six children: Joyce, Wallace, Bruce, Sandra, Linda, and Valerie Buckley. They lived in Winfield for five or six years before moving back to Brandon, Manitoba.

Harry Lorne Gibbons

Harry was born on November 25, 1908 in Brandon, Manitoba. He and Clare operated sawmills in Horsefly and Kelowna. He married Orma and they raised four children: Lorne, Ian, Brian, and Beverly Gibbons. Later, the family moved back to Manitoba to farm and raise cattle. Harry passed away on October 27, 1981 in Erickson, Manitoba.

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Known by his middle name, "Clare" was born on November 11, 1911 in Brandon, Manitoba. At the age of nineteen, he came to Okanagan Centre looking for work. Clare became a teamster at Rainbow Ranche. He married Rosalind Margeurite Friesen "Peggy" on June 8, 1937. Peggy was the daughter of Ben and Katherine "Tina" Friesen. Peggy was born in Rush Lake, Saskatchewan. Together they had three children: Sharon Margeurite, Richard Clare, and Glen Allan Gibbons. Clare died on November 14, 2000 in Winfield, B.C. Peggy had passed away on November 3, 1994 in Winfield, B.C.

Willard Kelly Gibbons

Willard was born on October 23, 1912 in Brandon, Manitoba. He married Jessie and they had five children: Betty, Lorraine, Kelly, Gwen, and Edith Gibbons.

Allan Alexander Gibbons

Allan was born on March 19, 1915 in Brandon, Manitoba. He met and married Edith May Gunn, daughter of Charles and Eva Gunn. They married on November 19, 1937 in Winfield and had four children: Larry Allan, Maureen, Randall Melvyn, and Sheldon Michael Gibbons.

Marion Grey Gibbons

Marion was born on January 23, 1917 in Brandon, Manitoba. She came to Winfield in 1936. Marion lived with her older brother Cecil in Okanagan Centre when she first arrived. In 1942, the house was built that Marion still resides in today. Marion worked at the Woodsdale packinghouse for three years and spent the rest of her time working at the Winoka packinghouse in Okanagan Centre until it closed. Then, it was back to Woodsdale again until she retired at age 65.

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Laura was born on April 3, 1921 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married Arthur Walker and they had three children: James, Marion, and Margaret Walker. Arthur passed away in 1963 and Laura passed away on July 23, 1988.

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The Gibbons Family

Life in the Okanagan, through the eyes of the Gibbons

This history focuses mainly on the family members that lived or are living in Lake Country.

Arriving in British Columbia: The Gibbons Story from the late 1920s to the late 1930s

James and Lila Gibbons were living with their twelve children in Brandon, Manitoba, in the 1920s. Life during the twenties was rough, and the family had very little income. They owned a huge dairy farm which shipped milk to the local dairy company. Trying to support all the children was getting difficult, so, as some were already young adults, James and Lila instructed them to go find work.

Bud, the fifth child in the family, was the first to make his way out to British Columbia. He came in 1927 and found work at the Rainbow Ranche in Okanagan Centre. Since work was going well, Bud sent for another brother to come and help him make some money. Back home, Harry, 21, and Clare, 19, were the next in line to go. Neither brother wanted to leave their home and family, so they decided to flip a coin to see who would go. Clare lost the coin toss and therefore was on his way to the Okanagan Valley. He came to Okanagan Centre from Brandon, Manitoba in 1929. Clare was also hired to work at the Rainbow Ranche by James Goldie. James treated the workers well, and Clare always felt like he was treated like a son. Clare even lived at the Goldie property on the lakeshore when he first arrived in Okanagan Centre. He stayed there with one other man, and they lived year round in a tent with wooden walls. The tent had no water, electricity, or plumbing, but Clare didn't complain. He used

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lake water for the household, and, in context to the time period and its hardships, Clare was very grateful for his home and job. He worked at the Rainbow Ranche for three or four years.

Cecil, the second oldest son, arrived next. Cecil came to work at Rainbow Ranche with his brothers. By this time, he was already married to Evelyn and they had two children, Nola and Wayne, in Manitoba. Cecil came alone to start working and get some money so that he could send for his family.

Harry, the fourth son, came soon after his older brother Cecil. He also worked at the Rainbow Ranche under the supervision of James Goldie. The three boys all lived in tents or cabins at the bottom of Rainbow Hill. They worked year round, on the orchard during the summers, and doing odd jobs during the winter. For example, Clare would chop firewood on Spion Kopje throughout the cold winters.

Back home, the youngest children were reaching their teens. So their mother, Lila, decided to come to the Okanagan. She arrived by train in Sicamous and made her way to Okanagan Centre in the early 1930s. Lila came to cook for her sons at the Rainbow Ranche. By this time, Bud had left for the Cariboo.

Clare, Cecil, and Harry continued to work at the Rainbow Ranche and lived on the property along with their mother, Lila, who cooked for the boys until 1933 or 1934. Cecil's wife and children came to Okanagan Centre and they built a home on what was Lakeshore Drive, south of the old packinghouse and the boat launch. Lila went back to Manitoba for a few years, and Clare and Harry decided to do other work.

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During this time, Allan Gibbons came to the Okanagan from Manitoba to join his brothers in the hard, but plentiful, work. As well, Marion, the second youngest child, made her way here by train in 1936. She was nineteen years old. Allan worked at the Rainbow Rancho for a time while Marion lived with Cecil and Evelyn, helping to care for their children.

All of the boys "rode the rails", as they say. They didn't bother getting tickets, and had to hitchhike through parts of their journeys from Manitoba to B.C. Even when the boys were supplied with money for the train, they chose to save it for something else.

In 1938, at the age of seventeen, Laura Gibbons arrived in the Okanagan. She and Marion began working at the packinghouses in the area. Laura worked at the Woodsdale Packinghouse along with Marion for the next three years, until Marion began work at the Winoka Packinghouse.

After Laura left Manitoba, the parents of the twelve children, James and Lila, came to Winfield as well. James, being about seventy years of age, decided not to look for a job. Years of strenuous work on the large farm in Manitoba was enough, and he considered Winfield a perfect place to retire. But Lila did go back to work, even after a busy life of raising twelve children and working on the farm. In her early sixties, Lila began working at the Westbury Hotel in Okanagan Centre. She cooked for the girls who boarded there and worked at the packinghouses. This included her daughter Laura, as well as many girls from Calgary and from all over western Canada. She worked many years there and also cooked for the men at logging camps.

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Much later, after raising her own family in Manitoba, the oldest daughter Lily, along with her husband Earl Sherritt and their three children, came to live in Winfield. Also, Willard, the oldest son, lived in Winfield for a short period. He worked up in the bush for two years before returning to Manitoba.

The Gibbons Stories: From their arrivals in Lake Country and Onward
(In order from the oldest, Lily, to the youngest, Laura)

Lily and Family

Lily was already 32 before her first brother, Bud, made the trip to the Okanagan. By then she had already established her home in Manitoba. She married Earl Sherritt and spent the next years raising her three children: James "Jim", Murray, and Donna. During the mid-forties, Lily and Earl chose to come to Lake Country. They moved to Okanagan Centre Road East with their daughter. Lily and Earl were nearing their fifties at this time. Earl worked with a team in Lake Country, and he and his group of men did all kinds of odd jobs. Their two sons were away at war when they moved. Jim and Murray both returned from the war and came to Winfield. Jim left soon after, but Murray stayed. He married Agnes and they lived in Clare and Peggy's house for a year while Clare and Peggy were at Little White Mountain, busy with the sawmills. Then they moved to a farm, which Murray worked hard at for quite some time. Also, Murray drove a gas truck, delivering gas to the stations throughout the community, as well as to people's homes and businesses. He and Agnes had two children, Brian and Joan.

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Cecil and Family

Cecil and Evelyn already had two children upon arriving at Okanagan Centre, Wayne and Nola. Later on, Sheila, Arlie, and Terry were born. The kids attended Okanagan Centre School and Cecil worked at Rainbow Ranche for a while. He then worked in construction, building roads. Cecil and Evelyn first lived in the Pixton Place then moved to their home on Okanagan Centre Road West, where Cecil continued to live until he passed away at 102 years of age. Cecil was well known in the community as a prankster.

A tragic accident befell the family. The youngest son, Arlie, was working up north. Cecil was listening to the radio and heard that a young man was killed while working. Cecil knew it was his son even before he received the phone call, as there was no one else as young as Arlie working there. The call confirmed his worst fear; his son Arlie was killed at the age of twenty. Cecil outlived another child, as his daughter Sheila battled with cancer and passed away in 2003, at the age of 71. Despite these heartbreaking events, Cecil did keep his sense of humor and could whip out a sarcastic comment faster than anyone. He was very sharp, even after living for a full century.

Bud and Family

Bud stayed for only a short time in Okanagan Centre. For his work in the orchards of Rainbow Ranche he was paid about 75 cents a day. Bud enjoyed going hunting with friends in the Cariboo when he had time. He enjoyed it so much, he decided to move up there. Bud traveled in his pride and joy, a Model T Ford truck, to Rose Lake where

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he lived for one year. He worked at putting up and baling hay, but that work didn't prosper. He went to Horsefly and made a living trapping, along with his partner Stan Barrett. Bud met a lady in Horsefly, Minnie "Hazel" Walters. She was born to Henry and Alva Walters, pioneers in Horsefly. Hazel had been the first Caucasian girl born in that area. Bud and Hazel married in 1942. Hazel had three sons from a previous marriage to Bill Loveridge and the youngest, Bryan, was still living at home when his mother remarried.

That same year, Bud and Hazel bought the Campbell's Store (a grocery store) and ran it for about six years. They would take trips to Williams Lake to get supplies such as sugar, flour, rice, and beans. After owning the store, Bud continued to trap and hunt grizzly bear, moose, deer, and black bear, while Hazel became assistant post mistress and later post mistress for the town. In 1952, the Gibbons bought a few heifer cows, which grew quickly to a herd of over fifty. Hazel and her sons owned 28 acres of ranch which was used for the cattle. On top of that, Bud owned 134 acres near the Little Horsefly River. Bud's brother, Clare, often went to Horsefly to help with maintaining the properties and he too purchased some land, a small hobby ranch on the Little Horsefly River.

Harry and Family

When Harry first arrived in the Okanagan, he worked at Rainbow Ranche, like his brothers. After being there for a few years, Harry and Clare became business partners, creating Okanagan Sawmills. They set up one sawmill in Kelowna and one in Horsefly. Also, Harry owned land on Spion Kopje, where he raised cattle. He lived on Rainbow Hill for a while, then made his home in Ellison. He married Orma

he lived for one year. He worked at putting up and baling hay, but that work didn't prosper. He went to Horsefly and made a living trapping, along with his partner Stan Barrett. Bud met a lady in Horsefly, Minnie "Hazel" Walters. She was born to Henry and Alva Walters, pioneers in Horsefly. Hazel had been the first Caucasian girl born in that area. Bud and Hazel married in 1942. Hazel had three sons from a previous marriage to Bill Loveridge and the youngest, Bryan, was still living at home when his mother remarried.

That same year, Bud and Hazel bought the Campbell's Store (a grocery store) and ran it for about six years. They would take trips to Williams Lake to get supplies such as sugar, flour, rice, and beans. After owning the store, Bud continued to trap and hunt grizzly bear, moose, deer, and black bear, while Hazel became assistant post mistress and later post mistress for the town. In 1952, the Gibbons bought a few heifer cows, which grew quickly to a herd of over fifty. Hazel and her sons owned 28 acres of ranch which was used for the cattle. On top of that, Bud owned 134 acres near the Little Horsefly River. Bud's brother, Clare, often went to Horsefly to help with maintaining the properties and he too purchased some land, a small hobby ranch on the Little Horsefly River.

Harry and Family

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Thompson in the early 1940s, and they raised five children, Lorne, Brian, Beverly, Audrey, and Ian. Harry and Clare worked at the sawmills until they closed in 1961.

Clare and Family

After Clare worked at Rainbow Ranche for three or four years, he attempted orcharding in Lake Country, but without financial success. Then, he and his brother Harry began working together at the sawmills. Both men were very hard workers and strong men, and their sawmills became fairly successful.

While living in Lake Country, Clare would socialize with a group of friends. He was close friends with Lionel McCarthy, who was together with Ruth Friesen. This in turn led to Clare meeting Ruth's younger sister, Peggy. Clare and Peggy fell in love and married on June 16, 1937. Their wedding was a lawn wedding in Winfield. They had their first child, Sharon, in 1941. Their first son, Richard, was born in 1945. When Sharon and Rich were young, their father Clare was very immersed in his work. He and his family lived on Little White Mountain for a few years so Clare could be close to work and family. After moving back to their house on Okanagan Centre Road East, they had their third child, Glen, in 1949. Often, when Clare was needed at the Horsefly sawmill, he would be gone for a month at a time. He also worked long days at the Kelowna sawmill. He did physically hard labour such as sawing huge railway ties, loading them on a truck, hauling them to the trains in Kelowna, and unloading them for ten to fourteen hours a day. When he was home, he would work at "the other place", an apple orchard on Seaton Road. The children often helped. Also, he tended to the cherry orchard in their backyard. The

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three children all went to Winfield Elementary School. Sharon went on to Rutland Secondary School for grades 7 to 12. At nineteen years of age, Sharon went to New Westminster for school. She attended Royal Columbian Hospital for three years to become a registered nurse. Rich went to the Rutland for grades 7-9, then on to George Elliot Secondary for grades 10-12.

On a transatlantic trip to Europe in 1963, Sharon met Wyatt "Sandy" Laing. Sandy had joined the military at 20 years old and became a navigator with the CF 100s. He was on his way to Southampton, she to France. After nine months of dating, the two got married in Winfield United Church on June 20, 1964. After they married, they worked in Calgary, Alberta and then emigrated to Christchurch, New Zealand. Here, their first child, Mark Wyatt, was born on October 4, 1966. In 1967, they moved back to Canada. Sandy rejoined the military and they were based in Cold Lake, Alberta, with postings in Goosebay, Labrador for two years and Lahr, Germany, for five years. Their second son, David Alexander, was born while in Cold Lake on August 31, 1969. Their third, Lisa Jane, was born in Edmonton, Alberta on December 19, 1971.

Sandy finished up his career as a base commander at Cape Perry while Sharon and the kids moved back to Winfield. In 1985 they bought land across from Gray Monk and replanted newer apples. Later on, they also leased land and bought more during 1988. In 1990 they sold their Seaton place (where they were previously living) and moved permanently to Okanagan Centre. They also own 320 acres of rangeland in Midway. Sandy currently works hard as an orchardist while Sharon finished her career as Registered Nurse at Kelowna General Hospital.

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Rich and his friends (Jim Walker, Jack McCarthy, Jim Moody, Dan Pretty, Ken Witzke, etc.) did a lot of fun things during their childhood in Lake Country. Rich remembers them riding their bikes everywhere, playing in the flume, the creek, and in haylofts. They kept themselves busy at school by playing games such as marbles.

The big attraction for children in Lake Country came during May long weekend. According to Rich, this is when swimming season began at Wood Lake. The old Lakeshore Inn had a public swimming beach.

Another memorable event for children in the Okanagan during the mid 1900s was the International Regatta. This took place in Kelowna at "The Aquatic" in City Park and the surrounding area. (The Aquatic burned down in July of 1969). At the Regatta, there was boat racing, a pool with night events such as synchronized swimming, Athan's tower (a high diving tower), water-skiing, and evening entertainers such as Frankie Lane and Earl Grant. There were also exhibits, games, and rides such as the Ferris Wheel and the Octopus. A competition took place to name the "Lady of the Lake" and her princesses. There was also an accompanying parade. Many children who attended Regatta during the 1940s and 1950s used to try and save up ten to fifteen dollars all year, just for this one special event.

At sixteen, Rich began working at Thompson Auto Supply in Kelowna. He also worked at the Stedman Store, the Vernon Fruit Union with this mom, and doing door-to-door sales with Fuller Brush. At twenty years old, Rich began working in financial services and stuck with that for his career.

On March 16, 1968, Rich married Elaine Dunsden in Summerland. After traveling and living in Terrace and North Vancouver for a while, they returned to Lake Country. Rich and Elaine

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built their house on Okanagan Centre Road West, just south of the boat launch, in 1974. This house is right beside Cecil's home, and has a small cabin on the other side that was owned by the previous generation of Gibbons. The cabin was originally a garage which they moved to its current location in 1953. A dock was built by the Gibbons across the road from the cabin. For a while two boys lived in the cabin, and then it was used extensively by the Gibbons during trips to the lake. The dock and beach was, and still is, a popular place for family and friends to swim, boat, and waterski.

Rich and Elaine have one son, Michael. Michael attended school at Wood Lake Elementary and Davidson Road Elementary. He was even taught one year by his Auntie Karen! Michael went on to university in Vancouver. He married Tracy Vines and they have one child, Cameron. Michael, Tracy, and Cameron visit Okanagan Centre quite often to see family and make use of the beach.

Glen went to Winfield Elementary then George Elliot Secondary. During the summer, they would often go to the beach, ride bikes to the water intake near Beaver Lake and catch fish, or play ball in the backyard. Glen took swimming lessons in Wood Lake and was most often found with his friends Dale Hillaby, Kim McCarthy, and Eric Greer, playing outside. They also enjoyed shinny hockey on Duck Lake and various ponds in the area. Glen moved to Vancouver to attend Simon Fraser University and attain his Bachelor's Degree in Science, majoring in Chemistry. He met his wife-to-be, Karen Davison, during his last year of university. They married on July 4, 1974 in Port Kells, B.C. After marriage, Glen taught in Surrey while Karen finished her Degree in Music Education. After living in Burnaby for a few years, they moved to Winfield. They lived in a small fourplex on Hill Road that once was a church. Their home was located just

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below Al's Café. They then rented a tiny old house from Denny Kobayashi on Highway 97, just beside Woody's Pub. At this point in time, Glen was hired to teach science at Springvalley Secondary. Coincidentally, the principal at Springvalley, Peter Greer, was also the principal during his high school years at George Elliot. Karen taught at Central and Bankhead Elementary Schools for a total of nine years, as well as playing oboe in the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra. Glen and Karen built their current residence near Jack Seaton Park in 1978. Their first child, Chris, was born on June 29, 1983. Karen returned to teaching part-time at Davidson Road Elementary until the birth of their second child, Katie, on August 30, 1986. She continued teaching at North Glenmore, Oyama, and is now teaching at Davidson Road Elementary School. Chris and Katie attended Davidson Road Elementary, then George Elliot Secondary School.

Allan and Family

Allan lived with either Cecil or Clare while working for the Rainbow Ranche. He picked up prunings and other similar jobs in the orchards. Allan met his wife-to-be Edie Gunn while riding with Clare and his friend along a Winfield road. Clare knew Edie and offered her a ride. The only place to sit was with Allan. She was fifteen at the time, and their relationship continued from there. Edie's parents were Charles and Eva Gunn, who had previously come to Winfield in the 1920s to raise their family. Edie and Allan married on November 19, 1937. After they married, they moved to Oliver for summer work. Upon their return, they lived in a small cabin in the Okanagan Land Company's work yard and then moved into what was called the 'Goodburn Place'. Allan worked for the land company, driving a team

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After an enjoyable but unprofitable time spent orcharding, Allan found a career in road construction. In 1949, he began working for Storms, paving in Penticton. He then worked as a laborer for General Construction, digging ditches. He and Edie had their last child, Sheldon, on May 23, 1952. Edie and the children generally lived in Lake Country or elsewhere in the Okanagan until 1956. Larry, Maureen, and Randy all went to Winfield Elementary. Randy recalls playing softball on the playground during recess and lunch time. Also, being only one year older than his cousin Glen, the two would often play together. Sometimes, Randy would camp with Glen at Clare and Peggy's house in the backyard. They slept in a huge old army tent that Clare would set up, until they got too scared and would run inside. Allan also worked in Salmon Arm, 150 Mile House, and Kamloops, working on road projects. Allan was able to go home to Winfield on weekends. The next job was in Kelowna, putting in the approaches for the new Okanagan Lake Bridge. In 1956, they moved to Kitimat, where Shel started school. Their house was sold to Cliff and Lena Gunn, and is now occupied by Marlene and Dan Henzie. Because of Allan's job in road construction, the family moved around a lot. In 1957, they went to Prince Rupert and in 1958 they went to

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The oldest son, Larry, worked as a heavy-equipment operator on road jobs, then worked as a business agent for the Operating Engineers Union. He married Gayle Gimnes and they had two children, Allan and Wendy. They raised their family near Langley.

Maureen lived mainly in Prince George, working as a supervisor in the kitchen of the College of New Caledonia for many years. She has two children, Mel and Dave Toane. Howie, her first son, passed away in 1994.

Randy married Barb Goertzen in 1971. They had three children, Darren, Jef and Allison. Randy and Barb both worked in Delta as teachers but presently Barb is principal of Topham Elementary School in Langley.

Shel worked as a heavy-equipment operator like his brother, Larry. He married Janice and they raised two children in Aldergrove, Tyson and Janelle. Shel now works as supervisor for Wastech, a garbage disposal company.

Allan continued working on different projects until he retired in 1987 and along with Edie, made a home in Langley.

Marion

Marion worked at the Woodsdale Packinghouse for three years while living with her brother, Cecil, and his family. In 1939 or 1940, Marion switched over to the Winoka Packinghouse. The packinghouses were only open during the summer and fall, so in the winter Marion

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and her sister Laura would travel to Vancouver to find work. The first winter, Marion worked at a biscuit factory. Each winter after that, she and Laura would take care of children and do housework. In the spring they would come home and begin work in the orchards. Marion remembers spending about ten hours a day thinning in the orchards.

In 1942, Marion's parents, Lila and James, built a house on the corner of Davidson Road and Okanagan Centre Road East. Marion moved into this house with her parents, and still resides there today (2005).

Marion spent all her summers and falls working in the packinghouse. She packed apples at Winoka in Okanagan Centre until it closed. Then she continued at Woodsdale up to her retirement in 1982.

Laura and Family

When Laura came out in 1938, she began working at the Woodsdale packinghouse for the Vernon Fruit Union. During the winters she would go with Marion to find work in Vancouver. Laura met and married a man named Art Walker while she was in Victoria. Art was in the army at the time. They lived in Victoria for two years before returning to Winfield. Art and Laura had three children, Jim, Margaret, and Marion. Margaret and Marion are twins. Art passed away at a young age after serving in the Second World War. Laura was left to raise her three children. Her oldest child, Jim, married Linda. They have two children, Tim and Tracey. Margaret married Malcolm Mitchell and they have four children, Jackie, Mike, Maureen "Sam", and Terry. Malcolm is an orchardist in Lake Country and is very involved as a member of the board of directors for the

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Many Gibbons family members are still living in and around Lake Country. The Gibbons family tree is very extensive, and I will continue to do research and fill in the blanks. Hopefully, these stories gave an idea of what life was like in Lake Country, beginning in the 1920s. For many, life consisted of hard work and long hours. As well, life saw many fun times exploring the area and enjoying the lakes, the land, and the people. The Okanagan treated this family well, and we will continue to enjoy life here.

As well, the genealogy part of this project helped me to realize the amount of extended family I have, and has helped me to discover their wonderful life stories. I have only just begun and will happily continue take this on as a serious project in appreciation of my family. I am very thankful for the push into this subject, as I am now very interested in collecting as much family history as I can and learning about how my ancestors lived. Thank you for the push in the right direction!

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Lila Ada Gibbons (nee Williamson) and James Cole Gibbons



The house that James Cole Gibbons was born in, Admaston Township, Ontario



The Children of James and Lila Gibbons



Harry and Allan



Leila and Willard



Ethel, baby Laura, and Marion



Ben and Louise (Lila's siblings), Bud, Cecil, Harry, and baby Clare



Laura and Marion



Turriff School in Manitoba
Where all the Gibbons children attended



Back: Lily, Lily's son Murray Sherritt, Murray's daughter Joan
Front: Lila (Lily's mother), and Murray's son Brian



Lawrence



Lawrence and Olive



Howard and Ethel Castle



Cecil in his 100th year



Evelyn and Cecil, 1952



Bud, Clare's grandson David, and Clare



Bud and Leila



Harry and Orma's wedding day, August 8, 1940



Harry



Clare and Peggy on Okanagan Centre Wharf, September 1934



Peg and Clare's Wedding Day, June 16, 1937



Willard and Jessie's wedding day, November 1, 1937



Willard and Jessie's 50th anniversary



Edie and Allan's wedding day, November 19, 1937



Edie and Allan's 50th anniversary



Marion and Cecil's daughter Nola, working in the packinghouse



Marion and Allan



Laura



Edie, Howard, Ethel, Allan, Peggy, Orma, Lawrence, Olive, Clare, Marion, Cecil, Laura



Clare and Cecil at Clare's place



Harry, Allan, Lawrence, and Willard at Ethel's place, June 1980



Back: Leila, Cecil, Allen, Evie, Clare, Edie, Lawrence
Sitting: Marion, Peggy, Laura, and Olive



Marion, Cecil, Clare, Bud, Harry, Lily
Allan, their mother Lila, and Laura

The Next Generations:



a
**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**



*from Roy, Lila,
Sharon, Richard & Glen.*

Sharon, Glen, and Richard (Clare's children)



Agnes and Murray Sherritt, Rich Gibbons, Sharon Laing, Glen Gibbons, Sandy Laing,
Malcom and Marg Mitchell (all still live in Lake Country, 2005)



Elaine and Rich Gibbons, Sharon and Sandy Laing, Karen and Glen Gibbons



Sharon's daughter Lisa with husband Mitch and children Shealyn and Brandt



Two of Sharon's grandchildren, Alex (David's son) and Brelyn (Mark's daughter)



Rich and Elaine with son Michael and his wife Tracy, and their baby Cameron



Chris and Katie, grandchildren of Clare



Jim, Marion, and Margaret Walker as children



Marion McCarthy and Margaret Mitchell



Marion McCarthy and Margaret Mitchell with their Aunt Marion



Willard and Jessie's children, Betty, Kelly, Edith, Lorraine, and Gwen



Liela with her children, Joyce and Valerie



Beverly (daughter to Harry and Orma) and husband Bernie Radford



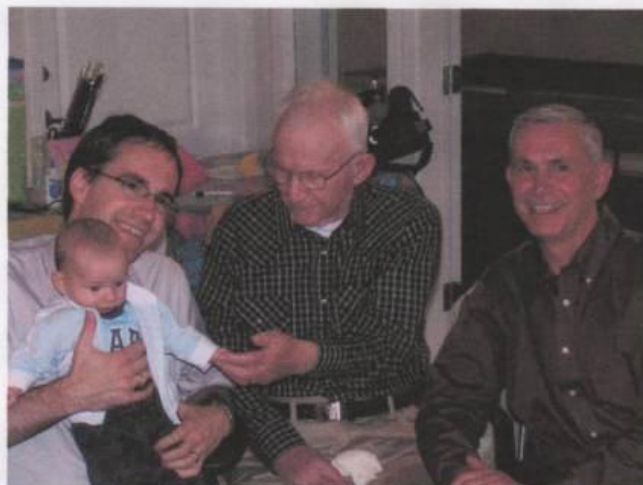
Allan and Edie's children, Randy, Maureen, Sheldon, and Larry



Randy's daughter Allison and Shel's daughter Janelle



Randy's son Jef, with wife Becca and daughter Isabella



Four generations: Hayden, Darren, Allan, and Randy



The last surviving children of James and Lila Gibbons:
Marion and Allan



Circled left to right: Marion Gibbons, Tina Friesen, Clare Gibbons, Edith Gunn, Peggy Gibbons

The Gibbons Family

**Genealogy
and
Life in the Okanagan**



by Katie Gibbons
Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society
Challenge Project 2005

The Gibbons Family Genealogy and Life In the Okanagan

by Katie Gibbons
Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society
Challenge Project 2005

Acknowledgments and Explanations

This essay is about the Gibbons family members. It was to be a genealogy report, taken from the beginnings of a family tree. But, as the family tree grew larger and larger, the direction in the essay changed a bit. The first part of the essay is my knowledge on the family tree. Then there are my notations on some family members of whom I received information. The second part of the report was done to pertain to Lake Country and it's history. It is the story of who came to the Okanagan, where they worked, where they lived, what they did for enjoyment, and their children. Hopefully (because most people will not be interested in the Gibbons specifically), this will give you a general idea of what life was like in the Okanagan beginning in the 1920s, through the eyes of my family's men, women, and children. I imagine many of the people in Lake Country have a similar history to tell.

I will continue to add to the family tree, but for now this is what I have discovered through the interviews and documents of my family.

In thanks for helping me with this essay, I would like to acknowledge the following:

Richard Gibbons (Uncle Rich), thank you for the childhood stories, they were thoroughly enjoyable and very useful.

Sharon Laing (Auntie Sharon), thank you for supporting me with the museum and the essay. I appreciate the work you put in aiding me with gathering this history.

Glen and Karen Gibbons (Dad and Mom), thank you for the information, support, ideas, and help with editing. It was much appreciated.

Marion Gibbons (Great Aunt Mernie), thank you for your time, the pictures, the facts, and the stories I may have never known without your help. You were very gracious to spend all that time with me while I badgered you with questions.

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Jef Gibbons, thanks for the connections.

Anne Land, thanks for taking time to read it over and share your thoughts.

For my family, my ancestors, everyone today who is or who ever came from a Gibbons, their spouses (welcome to the family!), and to our generations to come, I love you all. You are a part of a large circle of wonderful people; please don't forget.

Sincerely,

Katie Gibbons

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Sincerely;

Katie Gibbons

August-01-11
11:38 AM

*There is a family tree genealogy chart at this point in the manuscript but it was too big to scan. Please contact the museum for further information.

Descendants of Alexander "Sandy" Gibbons

Generation No. 1

1. ALEXANDER "SANDY" GIBBONS (JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 31, 1832 in Horton Township, Ontario, and died March 19, 1912 in Admaston Township (Northcote), Ontario. He married MARGARET COLE December 03, 1862 in Renfrew, Ontario, daughter of JAMES COLE and MARY LAROCHE. She was born January 16, 1836 in Goulburn Township, Ontario, and died August 16, 1912.

More About ALEXANDER "SANDY" GIBBONS:
Burial: March 21, 1912, Rosebank Cemetery

Children of ALEXANDER GIBBONS and MARGARET COLE are:

2. i. JAMES COLE⁴ GIBBONS, b. March 03, 1865, Renfrew County, Ontario; d. June 26, 1949, Kelowna, British Columbia.
- ii. THOMAS GIBBONS.
- iii. JESSIE GIBBONS.
- iv. CATHERINE "KITTY" GIBBONS.
- v. MARY GIBBONS.
- vi. ALEXANDER GIBBONS.
- vii. JOHN GIBBONS.
- viii. EMILY GIBBONS.

Generation No. 2

2. JAMES COLE⁴ GIBBONS (ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 03, 1865 in Renfrew County, Ontario, and died June 26, 1949 in Kelowna, British Columbia. He married LEILA ADA WILLIAMSON November 28 in Brandon, Manitoba, daughter of JAMES WILLIAMSON and KELLY. She was born January 09, 1876 in Watford, Ontario, and died February 01, 1972 in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Notes for JAMES COLE GIBBONS:
Family came from Dauphin, Manitoba

Children of JAMES GIBBONS and LEILA WILLIAMSON are:

3. i. MARY LILLIAS "LILY" GIBBONS, b. November 15, 1895, Brandon, Manitoba; d. July 25, 1971.
4. ii. LAWRENCE CLIFFORD GIBBONS, b. July 25, 1897, Brandon, Manitoba; d. January 09, Deer Park Lodge, Manitoba.
5. iii. ETHEL MARGARET GIBBONS, b. December 10, 1899, Brandon, Manitoba.
6. iv. CECIL ROY GIBBONS, b. December 25, 1902, Brandon, Manitoba.
- v. MELVIN "BUD" LESLIE GIBBONS, b. November 19, 1904, Brandon, Manitoba; d. November 21, 1999, Kelowna, British Columbia; m. MINNIE "HAZEL" WALTERS, 1942; b. July 19, 1896, Horsefly, B.C..

Notes for MELVIN "BUD" LESLIE GIBBONS:
Came to work at the Rainbow Ranch in the 1920s. Moved to Horsefly in the early 1930s where he had a cattle ranch and trapline for more than 30 years.

Obituary Calendar, November 24, 1999.

More About MELVIN "BUD" LESLIE GIBBONS:
Fact 2: In latter years, spent the winters with brother Cecil in Okanagan Centre
Occupation: orchard help; ranching

7. vi. LEILA ADA GIBBONS, b. July 07, 1906, Brandon, Manitoba.
8. vii. HARRY LORNE GIBBONS, b. November 25, 1908, Brandon, Manitoba; d. October 27, 1981, Erickson, Manitoba.
9. viii. JAMES CLARE GIBBONS, b. November 11, 1911, Brandon, Manitoba; d. November 14, 2000, Lake Country, B.C..
10. ix. WILLARD KELLY GIBBONS, b. October 23, 1912, Brandon, Manitoba.

1

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More About ALEXANDER "SANDY" GIBBONS:
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Notes for JAMES COLE GIBBONS:
Family came from Dauphin, Manitoba.

Children of JAMES GIBBONS and LEILA WILLIAMSON are:

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4. ii. LAWRENCE CLIFFORD GIBBONS, b. July 25, 1897, Brandon, Manitoba, d. January 09, Deer Park Lodge, Manitoba.
5. iii. ETHEL MARGARET GIBBONS, b. December 30, 1899, Brandon, Manitoba.
6. iv. CECIL ROY GIBBONS, b. December 25, 1902, Brandon, Manitoba.
- v. MELVIN "BUD" LESLIE GIBBONS, b. November 19, 1904, Brandon, Manitoba, d. November 21, 1999, Kelowna, British Columbia; m. MINNIE "HAZEL" WALTERS, 1942; b. July 39, 1896, Horsefly, B.C..

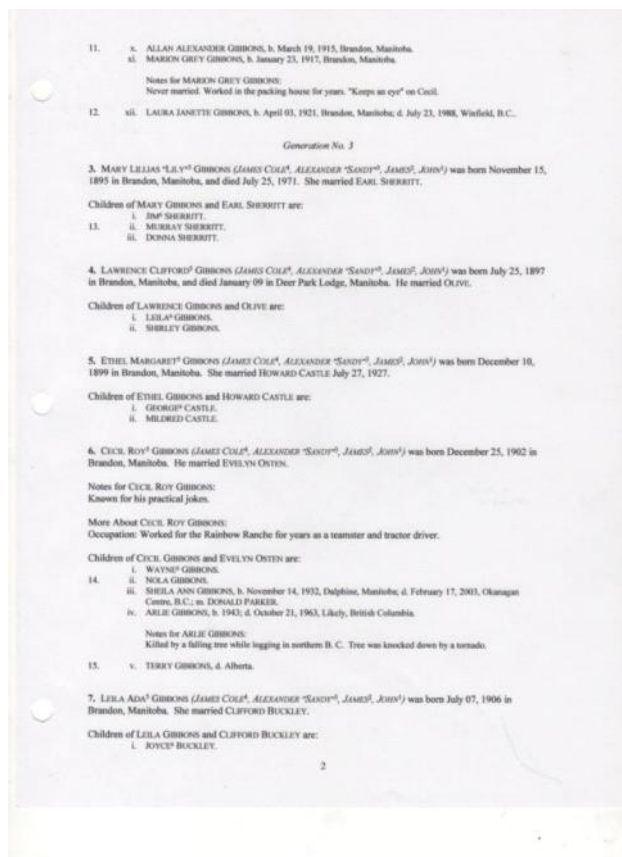
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Obituary Calendar, November 24, 1999.

More About MELVIN "BUD" LESLIE GIBBONS:
Fact 2: in latter years, spent the winters with brother Cecil in Okanagan Centre
Occupation: orchard help; ranching

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8. vii. HARRY LORNE GIBBONS, b. November 25, 1908, Brandon, Manitoba, d. October 27, 1981, Erickson, Manitoba.
9. viii. JAMES CLARE GIBBONS, b. November 11, 1911, Brandon, Manitoba d. November 14, 2000, Lake Country, B.C..
10. ix. WILLARD KELLY GIBBONS, b. October 23, 1912, Brandon, Manitoba.



11. x. ALLAN ALEXANDER GIBBONS, b. March 19, 1915, Brandon, Manitoba
xi. MARION GREY GIBBONS. b. January 23, 1917, Brandon, Manitoba

Notes for MARION GREY GIBBONS:
Never married. Worked in the packing house for years. "Keeps an eye" on Cecil

12. xii. LAURA JANETTE GIBBONS, b. April 03, 1921, Brandon, Manitoba d. July 23, 1988, Winfield, B.C..

Generation No. 3

3. MARY LILLIAS "LILY" GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born November 15, 1895 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died July 25, 1971. She married EARL SHERRITT.

Children of MARY GIBBONS and EARL SHERRITT are:

- i. JIM⁶ SHERRITT.
13. ii. MURRAY SHERRITT.
iii. DONNA SHERRITT.

4. LAWRENCE CLIFFORD GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born July 25, 1897 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died January 09 in Deer Park Lodge, Manitoba. He married OLIVE.

Children of LAWRENCE GIBBONS and OLIVE are:

- i. LEILA GIBBONS.
ii. SHIRLEY GIBBONS.

5. ETHEL MARGARET⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born December 10, 1899 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married HOWARD CASTLE July 27, 1927.

Children of ETHEL GIBBONS and HOWARD CASTLE are:

- i. GEORGE⁶ CASTLE
ii. MILDRED CASTLE.

6. CECIL ROY⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born December 25, 1902 in Brandon, Manitoba He married EVELYN OSTEN.

Notes for CECIL ROY GIBBONS:
Known for his practical jokes.

More About CECIL ROY GIBBONS:
Occupation: Worked for the Rainbow Ranche for years a teamster and tractor driver.

Children of CECIL GIBBONS and EVELYN OSTEN are:

- i. WAYNE⁶ GIBBONS.
14. ii. NOLA GIBBONS.
iii. SHEILA ANN GIBBONS, b. November 14, 1932 Dalphine, Manitoba, d. February 17, 2003, Okanagan Centre B.C.; m. DONALD PARKER.
iv. ARLIE GIBBONS, b. 1943, d. October 21, 1963, Likely, British Columbia.

Notes for ARLIE GIBBONS:
Killed by a falling tree while logging in northern B. C. Tree was knocked down by a tornado.

15. v. TERRY GIBBONS, d. Alberta

7. LEILA ADA⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born July 07, 1906 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married CLIFFORD BUCKLEY.

Children of LEILA GIBBONS and CLIFFORD BUCKLEY are:

- i. JOYCE⁶ BUCKLEY.

- ii. WALLACE BUCKLEY.
- iii. BRUCE BUCKLEY.
- iv. SANDRA BUCKLEY.
- v. LINDA BUCKLEY.
- vi. VALERIE BUCKLEY.

8. HARRY LORNE⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born November 25, 1908 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died October 27, 1981 in Erickson, Manitoba. He married ORMA THOMPSON August 08, 1940.

Children of HARRY GIBBONS and ORMA THOMPSON are:

- i. LORNE⁶ GIBBONS.
- ii. IAN GIBBONS.
- iii. BRIAN GIBBONS.
- iv. BEVERLY GIBBONS, m. BERNIE RADFORD, January 19, 1980.

9. JAMES CLARE⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born November 11, 1911 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died November 14, 2000 in Lake Country, B.C.. He married ROSALIND MARGUERITE "PEGGY" FRIESEN June 08, 1937 in Winfield, B.C., daughter of BEN FRIESEN and KATHERINE "TINA". She was born 1915 in Rush Lake, Saskatchewan, and died November 03, 1994 in Lake Country, B.C..

More About JAMES CLARE GIBBONS:
Occupation: Teamster at the Rainbow Rancho.

Children of JAMES GIBBONS and ROSALIND FRIESEN are:

16. i. SHARON MARGUERITE⁶ GIBBONS, b. February 24, 1941, Kelowna, B.C..
17. ii. RICHARD CLARE GIBBONS, b. February 28, 1945.
18. iii. GLEN ALLAN GIBBONS, b. March 19, 1949, Kelowna, B.C..

10. WILLARD KELLY⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born October 23, 1912 in Brandon, Manitoba. He married JESSIE November 01, 1937.

Children of WILLARD GIBBONS and JESSIE are:

- i. BETTY⁶ GIBBONS.
- ii. LORRAINE GIBBONS.
- iii. KELLY GIBBONS.
- iv. GWEN GIBBONS.
- v. EDITH GIBBONS.

11. ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 19, 1915 in Brandon, Manitoba. He married EDITH MAY GUNN November 19, 1937 in Winfield, B.C.. She was born February 02.

Children of ALLAN GIBBONS and EDITH GUNN are:

19. i. LARRY⁶ GIBBONS.
20. ii. RANDALL MELVYN GIBBONS, b. March 15, 1948.
21. iii. SHELDON GIBBONS.
22. iv. MAUREEN GIBBONS.

12. LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS (JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born April 03, 1921 in Brandon, Manitoba, and died July 23, 1988 in Winfield, B.C.. She married ARTHUR WALKER. He died 1963.

Children of LAURA GIBBONS and ARTHUR WALKER are:

23. i. MARGERY WALKER.
24. ii. MARGARET WALKER.
25. iii. JAMES WALKER.

3

- ii. WALLACE BUCKLEY.
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Children of HARRY GIBBONS and ORMA THOMPSON are:

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- ii. IAN GIBBONS.
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- iv. BEVERLY GIBBONS, m. BERNIE RADFORD January 19, 1980.

[Editor's note: Audrey Gibbons d. 1965]

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More About JAMES CLARE GIBBONS:
Occupation: Teamster at the Rainbow Rancho.

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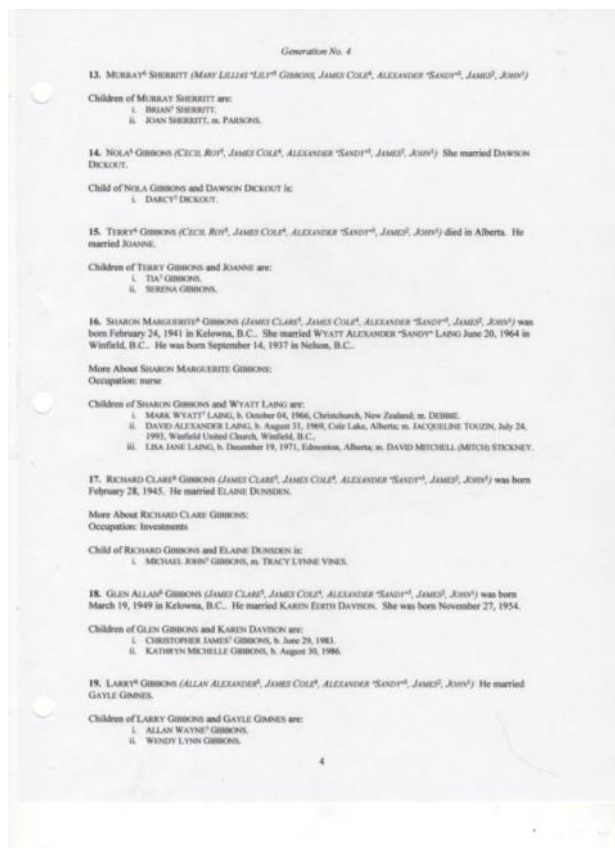
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Children of LAURA GIBBONS and ARTHUR WALKER are:

23. i. MARK WALKER.
24. ii. MARGARET WALKER.
25. iii. JAMES WALKER.

3



Generation No. 4

13. MURRAY⁶ SHERRITT (MARY LILLIAS "LILY"⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹)

Children of MURRAY SHERRITT are:

- i. BRIAN⁷ SHERRITT.
- ii. JOAN SHERRITT, m. PARSONS.

14. NOLA⁶ GIBBONS (CECIL ROY⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married DAWSON DICKOUT.

Child of NOLA GIBBONS and DAWSON DICKOUT is:

- i. DARCY⁷ DICKOUT.

15. TERRY⁶ GIBBONS (CECIL ROY⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) died in Alberta. He married JOANNE.

Children of TERRY GIBBONS and JOANNE are:

- i. TIA⁷ GIBBONS.
- ii. SERENA GIBBONS.

16. SHARON MARGUERITE⁶ GIBBONS (JAMES CLARE⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born February 24, 1941 in Kelowna, B.C.. She married WYATT ALEXANDER "SANDY" LAING June 20, 1964 in Winfield, B.C.. He was born September 14, 1937 in Nelson, B.C..

More About SHARON MARGUERITE GIBBONS:

Occupation: nurse

Children of SHARON GIBBONS and WYATT LAING are:

- i. MARK WYATT⁷ LAING, b. October 04, 1966. Christchurch, New Zealand; m. DEBBIE.
- ii. DAVID ALEXANDER LAING, b. August 31, 1969. Cole Lake, Alberta; m. JACQUELINE TOUZIN, July 24, 1993. Winfield United Church, Winfield, B.C..
- iii. LISA JANE LAING, b. December 19, 1971, Edmonton, Alberta; m. DAVID MITCHELL (MITCH) STICKNEY.

17. RICHARD CLARE⁶ GIBBONS (JAMES CLARE⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born February 28, 1945. He married ELAINE DUNSDEN.

More About RICHARD CLARE GIBBONS:

Occupation: Investments

Child of RICHARD GIBBONS and ELAINE DUNSDEN is:

- i. MICHAEL JOHN⁷ GIBBONS. m. TRACY LYNNE VINES.

18. GLEN ALLAN⁶ GIBBONS (JAMES CLARE⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 19, 1949 in Kelowna, B.C.. He married KAREN EDITH DAVISON. She was born November 27, 1954.

Children of GLEN GIBBONS and KAREN DAVISON are:

- i. CHRISTOPHER JAMES⁷ GIBBONS, b. June 29, 1983.
- iii. KATHRYN MICHELLE GIBBONS. b. August 30, 1986.

19. LARRY⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) He married GAYLE GIMNES.

Children of LARRY GIBBONS and GAYLE GIMNES are:

- i. ALLAN WAYNE⁷ GIBBONS.
- ii. WENDY LYNN GIBBONS.

20. RANDALL MELVYN⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 15, 1948. He married BARBARA JEANNE GOERTZEN April 10, 1971. She was born January 09, 1948.

Children of RANDALL GIBBONS and BARBARA GOERTZEN are:
i. DARREN RANDALL⁷ GIBBONS, b. October 06, 1974; m. SUSAN.
ii. JEFFREY CHARLES GIBBONS, b. July 30, 1976; m. BECCA.
iii. ALLISON ELIZABETH GIBBONS, b. January 25, 1979; m. JOHN HANTKE.

21. SHELDON⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) He married JANICE SPELAY September 04, 1976.

Children of SHELDON GIBBONS and JANICE SPELAY are:
i. TYSON⁷ GIBBONS.
ii. JANELLE GIBBONS.

22. MAUREEN⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married (1) KENNY. She married (2) GORDY TOANE.

Child of MAUREEN GIBBONS and KENNY is:
i. HOWIE⁷.

23. MARION⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married JACK MCCARTHY.

Children of MARION WALKER and JACK MCCARTHY are:
i. JAYSON⁷ MCCARTHY, m. KIM.
ii. CALVIN MCCARTHY.
iii. MARNI MCCARTHY.
iv. SHANNON MCCARTHY.

24. MARGARET⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married MAL MITCHELL.

Children of MARGARET WALKER and MAL MITCHELL are:
i. JACKIE⁷ MITCHELL.
ii. MIKE MITCHELL.
iii. MAUREEN MITCHELL.
iv. TERRY MITCHELL.

25. JAMES⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) He married LINDA.

Children of JAMES WALKER and LINDA are:
i. TIM⁷ WALKER.
ii. TRACEY WALKER.

20. RANDALL MELVYN⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) was born March 15, 1948. He married BARBARA JEANNE GOERTZEN April 10, 1971. She was born January 09, 1948.

Children of RANDALL GIBBONS and BARBARA GOERTZEN are:
i. DARREN RANDALL⁷ GIBBONS, b. October 06, 1974; m. SUSAN.
ii. JEFFREY CHARLES GIBBONS, b. July 30, 1976; m. BECCA.
iii. ALLISON ELIZABETH GIBBONS, b. January 25, 1979; m. JOHN HANTKE.

21. SHELDON⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) He married JANICE SPELAY September 04, 1976

Children of SHELDON GIBBONS and JANICE SPELAY are:
i. TYSON GIBBONS.
ii. JANELLE GIBBONS.

22. MAUREEN⁶ GIBBONS (ALLAN ALEXANDER⁵, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married (1) KENNY. She married (2) GORDY TOANE.

Child of MAUREEN GIBBONS and KENNY is:
i. HOWIE⁷.

23. MARION⁶ WALKER (LAURA JANETTE⁵ GIBBONS, JAMES COLE⁴, ALEXANDER "SANDY"³, JAMES², JOHN¹) She married JACK MCCARTHY.

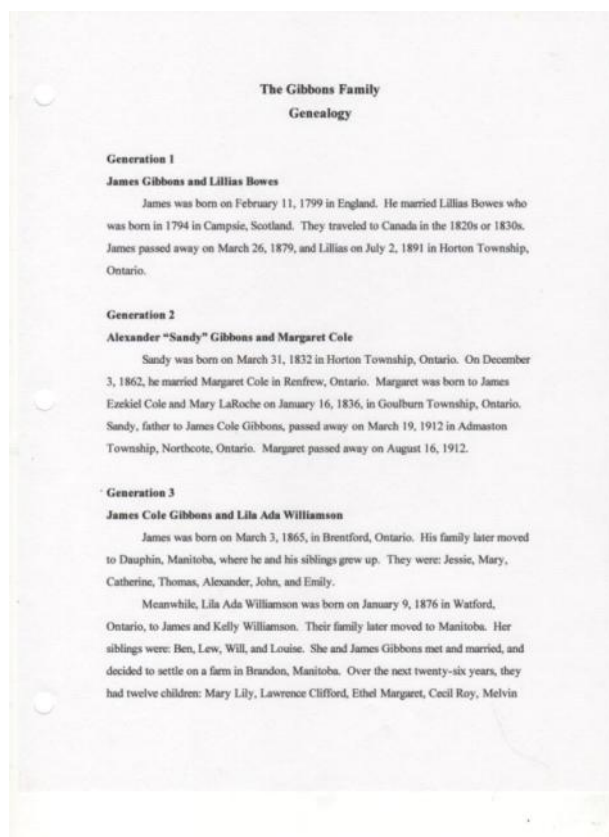
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i. TIM⁷ WALKER.
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The Gibbons Family

Genealogy

Generation 1

James Gibbons and Lillias Bowes

James was born on February 11, 1799 in England. He married Lillias Bowes who was born in 1794 in Campsie, Scotland. They traveled to Canada in the 1820s or 1830s. James passed away on March 26, 1879, and Lillias on July 2, 1891 in Horton Township, Ontario.

Generation 2

Alexander "Sandy" Gibbons and Margaret Cole

Sandy was born on March 31, 1832 in Horton Township, Ontario. On December 3, 1862, he married Margaret Cole in Renfrew, Ontario. Margaret was born to James Ezekiel Cole and Mary LaRoche on January 16, 1836, in Goulburn Township, Ontario. Sandy, father to James Cole Gibbons, passed away on March 19, 1912 in Admaston Township, Northcote, Ontario. Margaret passed away on August 16, 1912.

Generation 3

James Cole Gibbons and Lila Ada Williamson

James was born on March 3, 1865, in Brentford, Ontario. His family later moved to Dauphin, Manitoba, where he and his siblings grew up. They were: Jessie, Mary, Catherine, Thomas, Alexander, John, and Emily.

Meanwhile, Lila Ada Williamson was born on January 9, 1876 in Watford, Ontario, to James and Kelly Williamson. Their family later moved to Manitoba. Her siblings were: Ben, Lew, Will, and Louise. She and James Gibbons met and married, and decided to settle on a farm in Brandon, Manitoba. Over the next twenty-six years, they had twelve children: Mary Lily, Lawrence Clifford, Ethel Margaret, Cecil Roy, Melvin

Leslie, Leila Ada, Harry Lorne, James Clare, Willard Kelly, Allan Alexander, Marion Grey, and finally, Laura Janette Gibbons.

Generation 4

Descendants of James and Lila Gibbons

Mary Lily Gibbons

Known to everyone by her middle name, "Lily" was born on November 15, 1895 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married Earl Sherritt and had three children: Jim, Murray, and Donna Sherritt. Lily worked a 24 hour a day job raising her three children.

Lawrence Clifford Gibbons

Lawrence was born on July 25, 1897 in Brandon, Manitoba. At sixteen years of age, Lawrence joined the military. He fought with Canadians as part of the Allied Expeditionary Force, and they fought in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917. He was injured and ended up in a hospital in England. He was discharged in 1918 and went home to Manitoba. He met and married Olive and they had two children: Leila and Shirley Gibbons. Lawrence, Olive, and the children lived in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Lawrence became a mechanic and owned a garage. In 1998, Lawrence received France's highest military honour for fighting at Vimy Ridge.

Ethel Margaret Gibbons

Ethel was born on December 10, 1899 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married Howard Castle and they had two children: George and Mildred Castle. They lived in Manitoba and owned and operated a huge farm. The family sometimes spent their winters in Winfield, visiting family.

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Cecil Roy Gibbons

Cecil was born on December 25, 1902 in Brandon, Manitoba. Cecil came to Okanagan Centre and worked at the Rainbow Ranch for years as a teamster and tractor driver. He also drove heavy machinery to build roads. He married Evelyn and they had five children: Wayne, Nola, Sheila Ann, Arlie, and Terry Gibbons.

Melvin Leslie Gibbons

"Bud" was born on November 19, 1904 in Brandon, Manitoba. He came to work at the Rainbow Ranch in the mid 1920s helping in the orchards. Then Bud moved to Horsefly, B.C. in the early 1930s where he had a cattle ranch and trap line for more than fifty years. He met Minnie "Hazel" Walters, who was born July 19, 1896. Bud married Hazel in 1942 and together they owned and operated a small store. Later, Bud trapped and ranched. In Bud's later years, after Hazel had passed away, he spent a lot of time with his older brother Cecil in Okanagan Centre.

Leila Ada Gibbons

Leila was born on July 7, 1906 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married Clifford Buckley and they had six children: Joyce, Wallace, Bruce, Sandra, Linda, and Valerie Buckley. They lived in Winfield for five or six years before moving back to Brandon, Manitoba.

Harry Lorne Gibbons

Harry was born on November 25, 1908 in Brandon, Manitoba. He and Clare operated sawmills in Horsefly and Kelowna. He married Orma and they raised four children: Lorne, Ian, Brian, and Beverly Gibbons. Later, the family moved back to Manitoba to farm and raise cattle. Harry passed away on October 27, 1981 in Erickson, Manitoba.

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James Clare Gibbons

Known by his middle name, "Clare" was born on November 11, 1911 in Brandon, Manitoba. At the age of nineteen, he came to Okanagan Centre looking for work. Clare became a teamster at Rainbow Ranche. He married Rosalind Margeurite Friesen "Peggy" on June 8, 1937. Peggy was the daughter of Ben and Katherine "Tina" Friesen. Peggy was born in Rush Lake, Saskatchewan. Together they had three children: Sharon Margeurite, Richard Clare, and Glen Allan Gibbons. Clare died on November 14, 2000 in Winfield, B.C. Peggy had passed away on November 3, 1994 in Winfield, B.C.

Willard Kelly Gibbons

Willard was born on October 23, 1912 in Brandon, Manitoba. He married Jessie and they had five children: Betty, Lorraine, Kelly, Gwen, and Edith Gibbons.

Allan Alexander Gibbons

Allan was born on March 19, 1915 in Brandon, Manitoba. He met and married Edith May Gunn, daughter of Charles and Eva Gunn. They married on November 19, 1937 in Winfield and had four children: Larry Allan, Maureen, Randall Melvyn, and Sheldon Michael Gibbons.

Marion Grey Gibbons

Marion was born on January 23, 1917 in Brandon, Manitoba. She came to Winfield in 1936. Marion lived with her older brother Cecil in Okanagan Centre when she first arrived. In 1942, the house was built that Marion still resides in today. Marion worked at the Woodsdale packinghouse for three years and spent the rest of her time working at the Winoka packinghouse in Okanagan Centre until it closed. Then, it was back to Woodsdale again until she retired at age 65.

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Laura Janette Gibbons

Laura was born on April 3, 1921 in Brandon, Manitoba. She married Arthur Walker and they had three children: James, Marion, and Margaret Walker. Arthur passed away in 1963 and Laura passed away on July 23, 1988.

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The Gibbons Family

Life in the Okanagan, through the eyes of the Gibbons

This history focuses mainly on the family members that lived or are living in Lake Country.

Arriving in British Columbia: The Gibbons Story from the late 1920s to the late 1930s

James and Lila Gibbons were living with their twelve children in Brandon, Manitoba, in the 1920s. Life during the twenties was rough, and the family had very little income. They owned a huge dairy farm which shipped milk to the local dairy company. Trying to support all the children was getting difficult, so, as some were already young adults, James and Lila instructed them to go find work.

Bud, the fifth child in the family, was the first to make his way out to British Columbia. He came in 1927 and found work at the Rainbow Ranche in Okanagan Centre. Since work was going well, Bud sent for another brother to come and help him make some money. Back home, Harry, 21, and Clare, 19, were the next in line to go. Neither brother wanted to leave their home and family, so they decided to flip a coin to see who would go. Clare lost the coin toss and therefore was on his way to the Okanagan Valley. He came to Okanagan Centre from Brandon, Manitoba in 1929. Clare was also hired to work at the Rainbow Ranche by James Goldie. James treated the workers well, and Clare always felt like he was treated like a son. Clare even lived at the Goldie property on the lakeshore when he first arrived in Okanagan Centre. He stayed there with one other man, and they lived year round in a tent with wooden walls. The tent had no water, electricity, or plumbing, but Clare didn't complain. He used

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lake water for the household, and, in context to the time period and its hardships, Clare was very grateful for his home and job. He worked at the Rainbow Ranche for three or four years.

Cecil, the second oldest son, arrived next. Cecil came to work at Rainbow Ranche with his brothers. By this time, he was already married to Evelyn and they had two children, Nola and Wayne, in Manitoba. Cecil came alone to start working and get some money so that he could send for his family.

Harry, the fourth son, came soon after his older brother Cecil. He also worked at the Rainbow Ranche under the supervision of James Goldie. The three boys all lived in tents or cabins at the bottom of Rainbow Hill. They worked year round, on the orchard during the summers, and doing odd jobs during the winter. For example, Clare would chop firewood on Spion Kopje throughout the cold winters.

Back home, the youngest children were reaching their teens. So their mother, Lila, decided to come to the Okanagan. She arrived by train in Sicamous and made her way to Okanagan Centre in the early 1930s. Lila came to cook for her sons at the Rainbow Ranche. By this time, Bud had left for the Cariboo.

Clare, Cecil, and Harry continued to work at the Rainbow Ranche and lived on the property along with their mother, Lila, who cooked for the boys until 1933 or 1934. Cecil's wife and children came to Okanagan Centre and they built a home on what was Lakeshore Drive, south of the old packinghouse and the boat launch. Lila went back to Manitoba for a few years, and Clare and Harry decided to do other work.

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During this time, Allan Gibbons came to the Okanagan from Manitoba to join his brothers in the hard, but plentiful, work. As well, Marion, the second youngest child, made her way here by train in 1936. She was nineteen years old. Allan worked at the Rainbow Rancho for a time while Marion lived with Cecil and Evelyn, helping to care for their children.

All of the boys "rode the rails", as they say. They didn't bother getting tickets, and had to hitchhike through parts of their journeys from Manitoba to B.C. Even when the boys were supplied with money for the train, they chose to save it for something else.

In 1938, at the age of seventeen, Laura Gibbons arrived in the Okanagan. She and Marion began working at the packinghouses in the area. Laura worked at the Woodsdale Packinghouse along with Marion for the next three years, until Marion began work at the Winoka Packinghouse.

After Laura left Manitoba, the parents of the twelve children, James and Lila, came to Winfield as well. James, being about seventy years of age, decided not to look for a job. Years of strenuous work on the large farm in Manitoba was enough, and he considered Winfield a perfect place to retire. But Lila did go back to work, even after a busy life of raising twelve children and working on the farm. In her early sixties, Lila began working at the Westbury Hotel in Okanagan Centre. She cooked for the girls who boarded there and worked at the packinghouses. This included her daughter Laura, as well as many girls from Calgary and from all over western Canada. She worked many years there and also cooked for the men at logging camps.

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Much later, after raising her own family in Manitoba, the oldest daughter Lily, along with her husband Earl Sherritt and their three children, came to live in Winfield. Also, Willard, the oldest son, lived in Winfield for a short period. He worked up in the bush for two years before returning to Manitoba.

The Gibbons Stories: From their arrivals in Lake Country and Onward
(In order from the oldest, Lily, to the youngest, Laura)

Lily and Family

Lily was already 32 before her first brother, Bud, made the trip to the Okanagan. By then she had already established her home in Manitoba. She married Earl Sherritt and spent the next years raising her three children: James "Jim", Murray, and Donna. During the mid-forties, Lily and Earl chose to come to Lake Country. They moved to Okanagan Centre Road East with their daughter. Lily and Earl were nearing their fifties at this time. Earl worked with a team in Lake Country, and he and his group of men did all kinds of odd jobs. Their two sons were away at war when they moved. Jim and Murray both returned from the war and came to Winfield. Jim left soon after, but Murray stayed. He married Agnes and they lived in Clare and Peggy's house for a year while Clare and Peggy were at Little White Mountain, busy with the sawmills. Then they moved to a farm, which Murray worked hard at for quite some time. Also, Murray drove a gas truck, delivering gas to the stations throughout the community, as well as to people's homes and businesses. He and Agnes had two children, Brian and Joan.

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Cecil and Family

Cecil and Evelyn already had two children upon arriving at Okanagan Centre, Wayne and Nola. Later on, Sheila, Arlie, and Terry were born. The kids attended Okanagan Centre School and Cecil worked at Rainbow Ranche for a while. He then worked in construction, building roads. Cecil and Evelyn first lived in the Pixton Place then moved to their home on Okanagan Centre Road West, where Cecil continued to live until he passed away at 102 years of age. Cecil was well known in the community as a prankster.

A tragic accident befell the family. The youngest son, Arlie, was working up north. Cecil was listening to the radio and heard that a young man was killed while working. Cecil knew it was his son even before he received the phone call, as there was no one else as young as Arlie working there. The call confirmed his worst fear; his son Arlie was killed at the age of twenty. Cecil outlived another child, as his daughter Sheila battled with cancer and passed away in 2003, at the age of 71. Despite these heartbreaking events, Cecil did keep his sense of humor and could whip out a sarcastic comment faster than anyone. He was very sharp, even after living for a full century.

Bud and Family

Bud stayed for only a short time in Okanagan Centre. For his work in the orchards of Rainbow Ranche he was paid about 75 cents a day. Bud enjoyed going hunting with friends in the Cariboo when he had time. He enjoyed it so much, he decided to move up there. Bud traveled in his pride and joy, a Model T Ford truck, to Rose Lake where

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he lived for one year. He worked at putting up and baling hay, but that work didn't prosper. He went to Horsefly and made a living trapping, along with his partner Stan Barrett. Bud met a lady in Horsefly, Minnie "Hazel" Walters. She was born to Henry and Alva Walters, pioneers in Horsefly. Hazel had been the first Caucasian girl born in that area. Bud and Hazel married in 1942. Hazel had three sons from a previous marriage to Bill Loveridge and the youngest, Bryan, was still living at home when his mother remarried.

That same year, Bud and Hazel bought the Campbell's Store (a grocery store) and ran it for about six years. They would take trips to Williams Lake to get supplies such as sugar, flour, rice, and beans. After owning the store, Bud continued to trap and hunt grizzly bear, moose, deer, and black bear, while Hazel became assistant post mistress and later post mistress for the town. In 1952, the Gibbons bought a few heifer cows, which grew quickly to a herd of over fifty. Hazel and her sons owned 28 acres of ranch which was used for the cattle. On top of that, Bud owned 134 acres near the Little Horsefly River. Bud's brother, Clare, often went to Horsefly to help with maintaining the properties and he too purchased some land, a small hobby ranch on the Little Horsefly River.

Harry and Family

When Harry first arrived in the Okanagan, he worked at Rainbow Rancho, like his brothers. After being there for a few years, Harry and Clare became business partners, creating Okanagan Sawmills. They set up one sawmill in Kelowna and one in Horsefly. Also, Harry owned land on Spion Kopje, where he raised cattle. He lived on Rainbow Hill for a while, then made his home in Ellison. He married Orma

he lived for one year. He worked at putting up and baling hay, but that work didn't prosper. He went to Horsefly and made a living trapping, along with his partner Stan Barrett. Bud met a lady in Horsefly, Minnie "Hazel" Walters. She was born to Henry and Alva Walters, pioneers in Horsefly. Hazel had been the first Caucasian girl born in that area. Bud and Hazel married in 1942. Hazel had three sons from a previous marriage to Bill Loveridge and the youngest, Bryan, was still living at home when his mother remarried.

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Thompson in the early 1940s, and they raised five children, Lorne, Brian, Beverly, Audrey, and Ian. Harry and Clare worked at the sawmills until they closed in 1961.

Clare and Family

After Clare worked at Rainbow Rancho for three or four years, he attempted orcharding in Lake Country, but without financial success. Then, he and his brother Harry began working together at the sawmills. Both men were very hard workers and strong men, and their sawmills became fairly successful.

While living in Lake Country, Clare would socialize with a group of friends. He was close friends with Lionel McCarthy, who was together with Ruth Friesen. This in turn led to Clare meeting Ruth's younger sister, Peggy. Clare and Peggy fell in love and married on June 16, 1937. Their wedding was a lawn wedding in Winfield. They had their first child, Sharon, in 1941. Their first son, Richard, was born in 1945. When Sharon and Rich were young, their father Clare was very immersed in his work. He and his family lived on Little White Mountain for a few years so Clare could be close to work and family. After moving back to their house on Okanagan Centre Road East, they had their third child, Glen, in 1949. Often, when Clare was needed at the Horsefly sawmill, he would be gone for a month at a time. He also worked long days at the Kelowna sawmill. He did physically hard labour such as sawing huge railway ties, loading them on a truck, hauling them to the trains in Kelowna, and unloading them for ten to fourteen hours a day. When he was home, he would work at "the other place", an apple orchard on Seaton Road. The children often helped. Also, he tended to the cherry orchard in their backyard. The

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three children all went to Winfield Elementary School. Sharon went on to Rutland Secondary School for grades 7 to 12. At nineteen years of age, Sharon went to New Westminster for school. She attended Royal Columbian Hospital for three years to become a registered nurse. Rich went to the Rutland for grades 7-9, then on to George Elliot Secondary for grades 10-12.

On a transatlantic trip to Europe in 1963, Sharon met Wyatt "Sandy" Laing. Sandy had joined the military at 20 years old and became a navigator with the CF 100s. He was on his way to Southampton, she to France. After nine months of dating, the two got married in Winfield United Church on June 20, 1964. After they married, they worked in Calgary, Alberta and then emigrated to Christchurch, New Zealand. Here, their first child, Mark Wyatt, was born on October 4, 1966. In 1967, they moved back to Canada. Sandy rejoined the military and they were based in Cold Lake, Alberta, with postings in Goosebay, Labrador for two years and Lahr, Germany, for five years. Their second son, David Alexander, was born while in Cold Lake on August 31, 1969. Their third, Lisa Jane, was born in Edmonton, Alberta on December 19, 1971.

Sandy finished up his career as a base commander at Cape Perry while Sharon and the kids moved back to Winfield. In 1985 they bought land across from Gray Monk and replanted newer apples. Later on, they also leased land and bought more during 1988. In 1990 they sold their Seaton place (where they were previously living) and moved permanently to Okanagan Centre. They also own 320 acres of rangeland in Midway. Sandy currently works hard as an orchardist while Sharon finished her career as Registered Nurse at Kelowna General Hospital.

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Rich and his friends (Jim Walker, Jack McCarthy, Jim Moody, Dan Pretty, Ken Witzke, etc.) did a lot of fun things during their childhood in Lake Country. Rich remembers them riding their bikes everywhere, playing in the flume, the creek, and in haylofts. They kept themselves busy at school by playing games such as marbles.

The big attraction for children in Lake Country came during May long weekend. According to Rich, this is when swimming season began at Wood Lake. The old Lakeshore Inn had a public swimming beach.

Another memorable event for children in the Okanagan during the mid 1900s was the International Regatta. This took place in Kelowna at "The Aquatic" in City Park and the surrounding area. (The Aquatic burned down in July of 1969). At the Regatta, there was boat racing, a pool with night events such as synchronized swimming, Athan's tower (a high diving tower), water-skiing, and evening entertainers such as Frankie Lane and Earl Grant. There were also exhibits, games, and rides such as the Ferris Wheel and the Octopus. A competition took place to name the "Lady of the Lake" and her princesses. There was also an accompanying parade. Many children who attended Regatta during the 1940s and 1950s used to try and save up ten to fifteen dollars all year, just for this one special event.

At sixteen, Rich began working at Thompson Auto Supply in Kelowna. He also worked at the Stedman Store, the Vernon Fruit Union with this mom, and doing door-to-door sales with Fuller Brush. At twenty years old, Rich began working in financial services and stuck with that for his career.

On March 16, 1968, Rich married Elaine Dunsden in Summerland. After traveling and living in Terrace and North Vancouver for a while, they returned to Lake Country. Rich and Elaine

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built their house on Okanagan Centre Road West, just south of the boat launch, in 1974. This house is right beside Cecil's home, and has a small cabin on the other side that was owned by the previous generation of Gibbons. The cabin was originally a garage which they moved to its current location in 1953. A dock was built by the Gibbons across the road from the cabin. For a while two boys lived in the cabin, and then it was used extensively by the Gibbons during trips to the lake. The dock and beach was, and still is, a popular place for family and friends to swim, boat, and waterski.

Rich and Elaine have one son, Michael. Michael attended school at Wood Lake Elementary and Davidson Road Elementary. He was even taught one year by his Auntie Karen! Michael went on to university in Vancouver. He married Tracy Vines and they have one child, Cameron. Michael, Tracy, and Cameron visit Okanagan Centre quite often to see family and make use of the beach.

Glen went to Winfield Elementary then George Elliot Secondary. During the summer, they would often go to the beach, ride bikes to the water intake near Beaver Lake and catch fish, or play ball in the backyard. Glen took swimming lessons in Wood Lake and was most often found with his friends Dale Hillaby, Kim McCarthy, and Eric Greer, playing outside. They also enjoyed shinny hockey on Duck Lake and various ponds in the area. Glen moved to Vancouver to attend Simon Fraser University and attain his Bachelor's Degree in Science, majoring in Chemistry. He met his wife-to-be, Karen Davison, during his last year of university. They married on July 4, 1974 in Port Kells, B.C. After marriage, Glen taught in Surrey while Karen finished her Degree in Music Education. After living in Burnaby for a few years, they moved to Winfield. They lived in a small fourplex on Hill Road that once was a church. Their home was located just

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below Al's Café. They then rented a tiny old house from Denny Kobayashi on Highway 97, just beside Woody's Pub. At this point in time, Glen was hired to teach science at Springvalley Secondary. Coincidentally, the principal at Springvalley, Peter Greer, was also the principal during his high school years at George Elliot. Karen taught at Central and Bankhead Elementary Schools for a total of nine years, as well as playing oboe in the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra. Glen and Karen built their current residence near Jack Seaton Park in 1978. Their first child, Chris, was born on June 29, 1983. Karen returned to teaching part-time at Davidson Road Elementary until the birth of their second child, Katie, on August 30, 1986. She continued teaching at North Glenmore, Oyama, and is now teaching at Davidson Road Elementary School. Chris and Katie attended Davidson Road Elementary, then George Elliot Secondary School.

Allan and Family

Allan lived with either Cecil or Clare while working for the Rainbow Ranche. He picked up prunings and other similar jobs in the orchards. Allan met his wife-to-be Edie Gunn while riding with Clare and his friend along a Winfield road. Clare knew Edie and offered her a ride. The only place to sit was with Allan. She was fifteen at the time, and their relationship continued from there. Edie's parents were Charles and Eva Gunn, who had previously come to Winfield in the 1920s to raise their family. Edie and Allan married on November 19, 1937. After they married, they moved to Oliver for summer work. Upon their return, they lived in a small cabin in the Okanagan Land Company's work yard and then moved into what was called the 'Goodburn Place'. Allan worked for the land company, driving a team

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After an enjoyable but unprofitable time spent orcharding, Allan found a career in road construction. In 1949, he began working for Storms, paving in Penticton. He then worked as a laborer for General Construction, digging ditches. He and Edie had their last child, Sheldon, on May 23, 1952. Edie and the children generally lived in Lake Country or elsewhere in the Okanagan until 1956. Larry, Maureen, and Randy all went to Winfield Elementary. Randy recalls playing softball on the playground during recess and lunch time. Also, being only one year older than his cousin Glen, the two would often play together. Sometimes, Randy would camp with Glen at Clare and Peggy's house in the backyard. They slept in a huge old army tent that Clare would set up, until they got too scared and would run inside. Allan also worked in Salmon Arm, 150 Mile House, and Kamloops, working on road projects. Allan was able to go home to Winfield on weekends. The next job was in Kelowna, putting in the approaches for the new Okanagan Lake Bridge. In 1956, they moved to Kitimat, where Shel started school. Their house was sold to Cliff and Lena Gunn, and is now occupied by Marlene and Dan Henzie. Because of Allan's job in road construction, the family moved around a lot. In 1957, they went to Prince Rupert and in 1958 they went to

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The oldest son, Larry, worked as a heavy-equipment operator on road jobs, then worked as a business agent for the Operating Engineers Union. He married Gayle Gimnes and they had two children, Allan and Wendy. They raised their family near Langley.

Maureen lived mainly in Prince George, working as a supervisor in the kitchen of the College of New Caledonia for many years. She has two children, Mel and Dave Toane. Howie, her first son, passed away in 1994.

Randy married Barb Goertzen in 1971. They had three children, Darren, Jef and Allison. Randy and Barb both worked in Delta as teachers but presently Barb is principal of Topham Elementary School in Langley.

Shel worked as a heavy-equipment operator like his brother, Larry. He married Janice and they raised two children in Aldergrove, Tyson and Janelle. Shel now works as supervisor for Wastech, a garbage disposal company.

Allan continued working on different projects until he retired in 1987 and along with Edie, made a home in Langley.

Marion

Marion worked at the Woodsdale Packinghouse for three years while living with her brother, Cecil, and his family. In 1939 or 1940, Marion switched over to the Winoka Packinghouse. The packinghouses were only open during the summer and fall, so in the winter Marion

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In 1942, Marion's parents, Lila and James, built a house on the corner of Davidson Road and Okanagan Centre Road East. Marion moved into this house with her parents, and still resides there today (2005).

Marion spent all her summers and falls working in the packinghouse. She packed apples at Winoka in Okanagan Centre until it closed. Then she continued at Woodsdale up to her retirement in 1982.

Laura and Family

When Laura came out in 1938, she began working at the Woodsdale packinghouse for the Vernon Fruit Union. During the winters she would go with Marion to find work in Vancouver. Laura met and married a man named Art Walker while she was in Victoria. Art was in the army at the time. They lived in Victoria for two years before returning to Winfield. Art and Laura had three children, Jim, Margaret, and Marion. Margaret and Marion are twins. Art passed away at a young age after serving in the Second World War. Laura was left to raise her three children. Her oldest child, Jim, married Linda. They have two children, Tim and Tracey. Margaret married Malcolm Mitchell and they have four children, Jackie, Mike, Maureen "Sam", and Terry. Malcolm is an orchardist in Lake Country and is very involved as a member of the board of directors for the

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Many Gibbons family members are still living in and around Lake Country. The Gibbons family tree is very extensive, and I will continue to do research and fill in the blanks. Hopefully, these stories gave an idea of what life was like in Lake Country, beginning in the 1920s. For many, life consisted of hard work and long hours. As well, life saw many fun times exploring the area and enjoying the lakes, the land, and the people. The Okanagan treated this family well, and we will continue to enjoy life here.

As well, the genealogy part of this project helped me to realize the amount of extended family I have, and has helped me to discover their wonderful life stories. I have only just begun and will happily continue take this on as a serious project in appreciation of my family. I am very thankful for the push into this subject, as I am now very interested in collecting as much family history as I can and learning about how my ancestors lived. Thank you for the push in the right direction!

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Lila Ada Gibbons (nee Williamson) and James Cole Gibbons



The house that James Cole Gibbons was born in, Admaston Township, Ontario



Lila's father,
James
Williamson

The Children of James and Lila Gibbons



Harry and Allan



Leila and Willard



Ethel, baby Laura, and Marion



Ben and Louise (Lila's siblings), Bud, Cecil, Harry, and baby Clare



Laura and Marion



Turriff School in Manitoba
Where all the Gibbons children attended



Back: Lily, Lily's son Murray Sherritt, Murray's daughter Joan
Front: Lila (Lily's mother), and Murray's son Brian



Lawrence



Lawrence and Olive



Howard and Ethel Castle



Cecil in his 100th year



Evelyn and Cecil, 1952



Bud, Clare's grandson David, and Clare



Bud and Leila



Harry and Orma's wedding day, August 8, 1940



Harry



Clare and Peggy on Okanagan Centre Wharf, September 1934



Peg and Clare's Wedding Day, June 16, 1937



Willard and Jessie's wedding day, November 1, 1937



Willard and Jessie's 50th anniversary



Edie and Allan's wedding day, November 19, 1937



Edie and Allan's 50th anniversary



Marion and Cecil's daughter Nola, working in the packinghouse



Marion and Allan



Laura



Edie, Howard, Ethel, Allan, Peggy, Orma, Lawrence, Olive, Clare, Marion, Cecil, Laura



Clare and Cecil at Clare's place



Harry, Allan, Lawrence, and Willard at Ethel's place, June 1980



Back: Leila, Cecil, Allen, Evie, Clare, Edie, Lawrence
Sitting: Marion, Peggy, Laura, and Olive



Marion, Cecil, Clare, Bud, Harry, Lily
Allan, their mother Lila, and Laura

The Next Generations:



a
**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**



*from Roy, Lila,
Sharon, Richard & Glen.*

Sharon, Glen, and Richard (Clare's children)



Agnes and Murray Sherritt, Rich Gibbons, Sharon Laing, Glen Gibbons, Sandy Laing,
Malcom and Marg Mitchell (all still live in Lake Country, 2005)



Elaine and Rich Gibbons, Sharon and Sandy Laing, Karen and Glen Gibbons



Sharon's daughter Lisa with husband Mitch and children Shealyn and Brandt



Two of Sharon's grandchildren, Alex (David's son) and Brelyn (Mark's daughter)



Rich and Elaine with son Michael and his wife Tracy, and their baby Cameron



Chris and Katie, grandchildren of Clare



Jim, Marion, and Margaret Walker as children



Marion McCarthy and Margaret Mitchell



Marion McCarthy and Margaret Mitchell with their Aunt Marion



Willard and Jessie's children, Betty, Kelly, Edith, Lorraine, and Gwen



Liela with her children, Joyce and Valerie



Beverly (daughter to Harry and Orma) and husband Bernie Radford



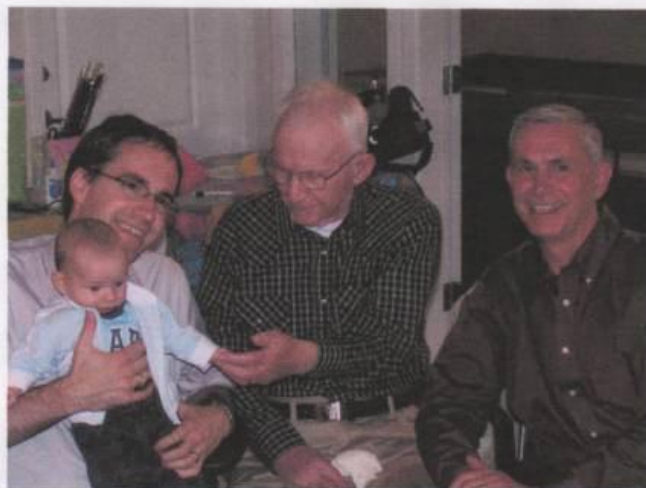
Allan and Edie's children, Randy, Maureen, Sheldon, and Larry



Randy's daughter Allison and Shel's daughter Janelle



Randy's son Jef, with wife Becca and daughter Isabella



Four generations: Hayden, Darren, Allan, and Randy



The last surviving children of James and Lila Gibbons:
Marion and Allan



Circled left to right: Marion Gibbons, Tina Friesen, Clare Gibbons, Edith Gunn, Peggy Gibbons