

## 1900 – Paddle wheelers

The paddle wheelers of Okanagan Lake carried freight and people from 1893 with the *S. S. Aberdeen* to 1972 when the *S. S. Okanagan* carried her last load. They were the lifeline of the small settlements along the length of Okanagan Lake.

## 1900 – Spion Kop

We think that the man who first called our mountain Spion Kop, was Northcote Caesar's brother, Leslie, a veteran of the Boer War after the Battle of Spion Kop. Certainly, it has been known to local residents by that name for close to 100 years.

The Battle of Spion Kop (Afrikaans: Slag van Spioenkop) was fought about 38 km. west-south-west of Ladysmith on the hilltop of Spioenkop along the Tugela River, Natal in South Africa. The battle was fought between Boer and British forces from 23-24 January 1900 as part of the Second Boer War, and resulted in a famous British defeat during the Boer War.

For details of this famous battle, see the article [The Battle of Spion Kop](#) in Wikipedia.



## 1900-1910 – Irrigation system

The key to growing agricultural crops in the Okanagan Valley was, and is, water. Without it, the land reverts back to its natural state of bunch grass and pine trees.

Government water policy was first formed back in the placer gold mining days of the 1850s and was changed and added to over the years as necessitated by conditions. As agricultural settlement increased, in fact boomed after 1890, so did the need for irrigation water in the Interior Dry Belt of which the Okanagan was part. Since the amount of water was limited,

competition for it was intense, and, as before, the first to apply got the first water right from that source.

With a poor, or non-existent, infrastructure, the British Columbia Government did not really have control of the water as they lacked an agency devoted to water rights. This changed in 1909 when the revised Water Act provided for a Water Rights Branch....

At first agricultural water rights were generally taken out by individuals. This changed in the Okanagan as development companies came on the scene at the turn of the century and opened up blocks of land for settlement. In order to sell the lands, these companies had to provide irrigation water and so applied for water rights. Usually these rights were turned over to water companies composed of the land purchasers thus giving those users control of their water.

Source: Ellison, Ken V. *Irrigation is King!*

There was a reservoir near the top of the ridge on Camp Road just west of the entrance to Seaton Park. It is overgrown now. An old section of wooden irrigation pipe leading from this reservoir can still be seen sticking out of the bank above Tyndall Road near Camp Road.



Seaton Reservoir 1950. Ribelin photograph



### **1901 – Glenmore Road**

The portion of Glenmore located in Lake Country begins at the junction of Highway 97 and Beaver Lake Road, travelling south, and ends at Chase Road, before crossing the City of Kelowna boundary.

The area around the present Glenmore Road was originally known as Starvation Flats and was located in an area called Dry Valley. In 1901, at the time of its incorporation, The Central Okanagan Land and Orchards Co. Ltd. subdivided the land in Dry Valley after they brought in irrigation. Then the Orchard Company offered a prize of \$100 (a lot of money at the time) to anyone who could propose a suitable name for the area.

One of the well known farmers in that area, John Morrison, had purchased a farm that bore the name Glenmore. Mrs. Morrison, John's wife, thought it was a suitable name and submitted it. Glenmore was also suggested by a Mrs. A. R. Walker, a resident of Kelowna. The Orchard Company accepted the name and gave Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Walker fifty dollars each.

The Corporation of the District of Glenmore was incorporated on October 6, 1922.

Source: Harvey, A. G. "Okanagan Place Names. Their Origin and Meaning." *The Twelfth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Vernon, BC: OHS, 1948. p. 205.

### **1903 – Vernon-Okanagan Mission Stagecoach Halfway House**

The Halfway House, a one room cabin with an attached lean-to, was built by Frank Bouvette as a stage coach depot on the lakeshore of Long (Kalamalka) Lake. Built in 1903, it operated for at least a decade feeding and servicing the passengers and teams that traveled from Vernon to the Mission and Kelowna. The Halfway House, located at Milepost 11 from Vernon wasn't half way

in distance from Vernon to Kelowna, but this distance was considered half of the effort for the horses, considering that they had to climb up and over the Commonage hills coming out of Vernon.

The depot was owned and operated briefly by Matt Howard, then by W.R. Powley who operated it from 1904 until about 1913 when the stage owner relocated the depot to a location near Robinson Road west of Woodsdale Road. The stage line was operated successively by Walter Pritchard, Michael Healy, Sam Munson, and William Scott (beginning circa 1907), and Jack Wyatt (1916).

Powley's recollections of the Halfway House operation are descriptive:

*"Pritchard [the stage operator] always kept three horses at the Half Way House, a team for changing and an extra horse in case of trouble, such as one going lame. One never knew till the stage arrived how many mouths there would be to feed. The table must be set and food cooked ready to serve. The horses must be fed ahead, cleaned, and harnessed so that there would be no delay when the stage arrived. Pritchard's stage at that time was a heavy Democrat with three seats, seating six comfortably. The Stage went south to Mission and Kelowna on Monday, returning on Tuesday and so on through the week, stopping to change horses and "dinner" at the Half Way House. The tableware consisted of blue-gray enamel plates, steel knives and forks, plain white cups, and saucers. The meal consisted nearly always of roast beef, baked potatoes, pudding and fruit, bread and butter and tea .... The price of this meal at that time was twenty five cents."*

Source: Thomson, Duane.

Pen and ink drawing by Johnny Tipton; provided by owner, Duane Thomson.

For further information see:

Powley, W.R. "The Vernon-Kelowna stage Half-way House." *Okanagan History*, 23:34-40.

Powley, Hume. "Early Settlers in Oyama, 1893-1914." *Okanagan History*, 61:101-106.



### **1904 – Hayton Road**

Hayton Road runs from Todd Road to Oyama Lake Road in Oyama. It was established in 1904 and named after Joseph “Jack” Hayton.

Hayton, a parson’s son, was an English remittance man who ran 200 cattle and 100 horses on the V Bar V Ranch from about 1904 until he left for Australia in 1914. Hayton bought the ranch from William Furniss who had previously acquired the Bovee brothers’ ranch. Later Fleetwood Wilson, a Tasmanian adventurer, and his friend, Guy Ford, raised cattle on the V Bar V Ranch. The ranch was in turn sold to Norman Davies who ran it from 1930 to 1939 when Davies returned to England on account of the war effort. He sold the ranch to Vernon Ellison who established Kalwood Farms, a Hereford cattle operation.

Hayton Creek, also known as Spring Creek, was also named after Jack Hayton. This creek runs across Sawmill Road down to the Oyama Swamp on the isthmus.

Source: Young, Joyce. 2006; Powley, W. R. “The Vernon-Kelowna Stage Half-way House.” *The Twenty-first Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Vernon, BC: OHS, 1957. p. 36; Powley, Hume. “Early Settlers in Oyama: 1893-1914.” *Okanagan History. The Sixty-first Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Salmon Arm, BC: OHS, 1997. p. 104.

### **1904 – Whipple Road**

Whipple Road is not marked on current maps but it was established in 1904. The Lake Country Road Registry states that Whipple Road starts at Hebbert Road and dead ends but this information may not be correct. Current members of the Whipple family are not aware of a road named after the family but long time resident Julie Allingham suggests that it was below, and

running parallel to Oyama Road, near the old Whipple wharf and it has been obliterated by the Canadian National Railway tracks.

This pioneer family was very involved in Oyama's community affairs. Floyd Whipple was a road foreman and Cass Whipple had been a school teacher from Armstrong. Walter Whipple married Beattie Phillips and moved to the United States in the 1920s. His sister married Blaine Griffiths who constructed many Oyama buildings. They lived on the Upper Bench where Dave and Marie Graham, and then Dave Marshall, had orchards.

Source: Young, Joyce. 2006; Lake Country Road Registry; Julie Allingham.

### **1906 – Cheesman Road**



Cheesman Road is located in Okanagan Centre; its initial point is Camp Road and it is a dead end gravel road. This road was first established in 1906 and takes its name from an early pioneer, J. R. (John Reginald "Rex") Cheesman.

John Cheesman was born in Kent, England, on January 19, 1886 and at the age of 22 years, he came to Canada and settled in Okanagan Centre.

During the First World War Cheesman served with the 54th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles; he saw action overseas and was wounded twice.

John and his wife, Hilda, had one daughter, Patricia, who was born on February 8, 1927. While living in Okanagan Centre, Hilda and John Cheesman ran an orchard for many years until John died on July 19, 1956.

Daughter Patricia had married John Richards in August 1949 and Patricia and John took over the Cheesmans' orchard. They farmed it for the next 16 years and it was on the farm that they raised their own family. Patricia Margaret Richards (nee Cheesman) died on August 1, 2004.

Source: "J. R. Cheesman" in "We Will Remember Them". *The Twentieth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Vernon, BC: OHS, 1956. p. 171; "Richards, Patricia Margaret." in "Lives Remembered." *Okanagan History. The Sixty-ninth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Kelowna, BC: OHS, 2005. p. 212.; Lake Country Museum archives; *The Calendar*, August 4, 2004.

### **1906 – George Gibson Property**

Photograph: Rosemary Wentworth with her grandfather George Gibson at Gibson House.

George Gibson arrived in Canada from his native England eighteen months before he bought this forty-five acre property. The Indigenous name for the land was 'Cussasonyx' or Paradise Point and the Syilx had used the place for many years as a fishing camp.

Five years after clearing his land and planting an orchard, Gibson met Grace Chapman, who had come from England with Mr. and Mrs. Ward to Okanagan House at Sunnywold (now Carr's Landing). He needed a better house to welcome a bride!

Source: *The Calendar*, May 22, 1996.

*See also:* 1912, 1951, 1987, 1996.





### **1906 – M. P. Williams**

M. (Malcolm) P. (Parker) Williams purchased the old Thomas Wood property at the south end of Long (Kalamalka) Lake. He had some Kelowna builders tendering on the work of building a house. For many years the hill on which his house was built was referred to as M. P. Williams' hill.

Williams raised sheep on his property for a time. He was also a church warden of the Parish of Woodsdale in the year 1921 when he was named as an agent of the church in the sale of some land.

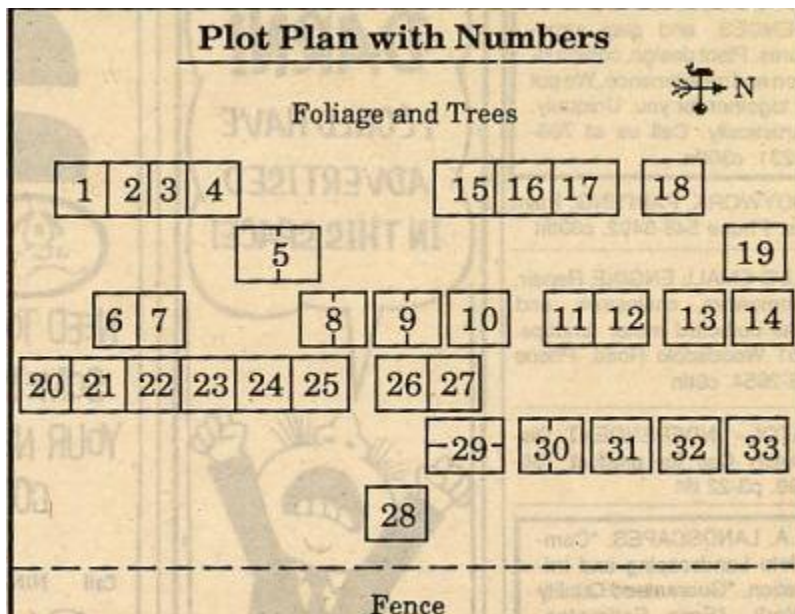
M. P. Williams died in Kelowna on December 8, 1938 at the age of 62.

Source: Lake Country Museum archives and B.C. Archives, Vital Events.





**1906 - Old Cemetery**



The old cemetery dates from between 1906 and 1908 when the Maddock Brothers gave a lot of land (East half, Lot 66, Plan 444) for the cemetery, land where 'several bodies had been buried'. The Museum has a copy of a 'Deed of Land' documenting the gift but it apparently was not registered in Kamloops. It wasn't until 1918 that a formal meeting was held to organize the cemetery, survey the property, clean up the lot and mark out plots. It was found then that a portion of the land's sub-soil was hardpan and therefore unusable. Despite this, there were burials in the cemetery until 1975.

There is no complete record of the burials because a fire destroyed the records about 1930, but there are 28 known graves, 10 other graves and 5 suspected sites. There are a total of 35 named persons buried in the cemetery, 9 of whom were Japanese. Many of the headstones are carved with oriental script.

Source: Mitchell, Jackie. "The Old Cemetery".

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Sometime about 1906 to 1908 the Maddock Brothers, former owners of OK Centre & Land Valley Co., gave a lot for the cemetery, where several bodies had been buried.

From 1908 to 1918 several cemetery meetings had been called, but owing to lack of attendance, nothing could be done until the cemetery question was put before a meeting on December 28, 1918.

A public meeting held at Wood Lake School House, now the Winfield Hall, when Messrs. J. Goldie, P. W. Pixton and S. Edwards were elected as trustees for the cemetery, being requested if they could arrange to secure title deed of property and to take whatever steps they deemed advisable and to get the cemetery surveyed, cleaned up and mark out a small portion of ground for graves. Also, at a later date, to report at some public meeting the expenses incurred when funds would be raised to cover same.

Shortly after this meeting, Mr. S. Edwards left the district and Mr. F. C. Baker was chosen as trustee in his place. The trustees took steps to have three acres surveyed to 75 feet x 120 feet, or little more than one quarter of an acre, marked and pegged out for graves; the cost of same was \$44.00.

Men were employed cleaning up, burning brush and logging off old trees, etc.; the cost of same being \$77.00. Agent's charge for deed was \$6.00.

It is much to be regreted that on digging for a grave in the newly surveyed portion of cemetery, it was found that subsoil was hardpan. The community being informed of this condition, many said a new plot should be found and bodies removed.

We regret to report although much time was given to locate a new cemetery, it was found impossible to do anything in this line. Already a debt had been incurred by the trustees — nothing has been done to pay this off, and who can be expected to undertake the expense of laying out another plot of ground and removing the bodies which now lay in the old cemetery.

The trustees made a charge of \$8.00 a grave for burial; this charge was paid to the trustees against the debt.

It is in our opinion that quite a portion of the present cemetery can be used for burial, which should last for several years. The trustees are not only out of pocket but they have been put to a considerable amount of trouble and time, not only over cemetery as a whole, but over each individual burial as it has occurred.

The trustees wish to inform the district through the Men's & Women's Institutes that the district will have to take steps to raise funds if it is their wish that there should be a place of burial for the Winfield and Okanagan Centre District.

Source: Author Unknown. "History of OK Centre & Winfield Cemetery."

*See also:* SP 004.079 Lake Country Museum archives.

## **1906 – Oyama**

A Post Office was established in the home of Dr. W. H. Irvine's in 1906 with Dr. Irvine acting as the first Post Master. Dr. Irvine's mother suggested that it be named after Oyama Iwao, a Japanese Field Marshall, whose name figured prominently in the newspapers during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905.

IWAO OYAMA, Prince (1842-1916), Japanese field-marshal, was born in Satsuma. He was a nephew of Saigo, with whom his elder brother sided in the Satsuma insurrection of 1877, but he nevertheless remained loyal to the imperial cause and commanded a brigade against the insurgents. When war broke out between China and Japan in 1894, he was appointed commander in-chief of the second Japanese army corps, which, landing on the Liaotung Peninsula, carried Port Arthur by storm, and, subsequently crossing to Shantung, captured the fortress of Wei-hai-wei. For these services he received the title of marquess, and, three years later, he became field-marshal. When (1904) his country became embroiled in war with Russia, he was appointed commander-in-chief of the Japanese armies in Manchuria, and in the sequel of Japan's victory the Mikado bestowed on him (1907) the rank of Prince. He received the British Order of Merit in 1906.

For further information and a photograph of Oyama Iwao see [Wikipedia entry](#).



## **1906 – Wentworth Cabin**

This cabin was constructed and lived in by the Wentworth brothers, Cyril and Joe, when they came to this area from England. Records are sketchy from that time, but Rosemary Carter believes it was built about 1906, from a design by Northcote Caesar.

The construction is interesting. Examine the walls, and you will find no studs at all. The walls are simply two layers of one-inch planks nailed together at right angles. This was apparently a standard construction technique in mining camps.

The cabin stood on its original property, on top of the ridge at Camp Road, until 1998. It was donated to the Lake Country Museum by Ron and Rosemary Carter, and moved to its present location by the Lake Country Lions Club.

Most of the present furnishings of the interior of the cabin have been donated by Neville Sproule of Oyama.



2001.002.000 Moving the Wentworth Cabin, 1998

### **1907 - Cemetery Road**

Cemetery Road was established in 1907 with its starting point on Davidson Road and proceeding south to a dead end. It was so named due to its location near the cemetery. The road was paved in 1980.

*See also:* Old Cemetery.

### **1907 – Hare Road**

Hare Road was first established in 1907 and is located in Okanagan Centre. It is a dead end junction ending at Camp Road. Hare Road was first paved in 1976. The road takes its name from two very well known Okanagan Centre pioneers, Susan and Edward Hare.

Edward Hare was born in Somerset, England, and arrived in Vernon around 1907. Later he went up north to Fort Fraser where he was involved in building bridges on the Grand Trunk Pacific at a time when Canada was being opened up from East to West.

Hare stayed in the North for about eight years, before returning to the Okanagan in 1916, at which time he joined the Sixth Field Company, Canadian Engineers.

One year later Edward Hare was transferred to the First Army Troop Company where he saw action for the whole of World War 1. After his war service ended in 1921 Edward returned to the Okanagan at which time he purchased an orchard in Okanagan Centre.

It was here, in the Okanagan, that Hare's two sisters joined him, and he lived with them until 1928. In 1928 Edward married his wife Susan, whom he met at the Okanagan Valley Land Company where she worked in the office. They had one daughter, Karleen.

Edward Hare was not only involved in the orchard business, but is also credited with having built many of the houses in Okanagan Centre, along with his partner, James Alfred Gleed. He also did some building business in the Okanagan Mission area. In the summer of 1937 the Hares spent their summer in Kelowna, at which time Edward Hare was appointed Supervisor for architects McCarter & Nairne, who were responsible for the building of the Kelowna post office.

Both Edward and Susan Hare were very active in the Okanagan Centre community and in the United Church where Susan was the organist. She was also involved in the tennis club, an avid badminton player, and a prominent member of the Women's Institute.

The Hares moved to Kelowna in 1948, where Edward "Teddy" again worked for McCarter & Nairne in a supervisory capacity overseeing the building of the Memorial Arena, City Hall, the new addition to the Kelowna General Hospital, along with the building of the new Kelowna High School and other schools in School District 23.

It was in 1953 that, due to ill health, Edward Hare decided to retire and to sell his orchard ranch in Okanagan Centre; he sold it to S. Luknowsky. The Hares remained active in Kelowna in particular with the Red Cross.

Edward Douglas Hare passed away in 1963 at the age of 80. He was laid to rest in the Kelowna Cemetery. After Edward's death Susan was still active in the community. In 1978 she took up residence at *Pleasant Meadows* where she enjoyed playing the piano, looking after the flowers in the gardens, and taking part in an occasional game of croquet.

Susan Margaret Hare passed away on January 18, 1981, at the age of 82 years; she was laid to rest beside her husband in Kelowna.

Source: The *Kelowna Daily Courier*; *The Calendar*; and the Lake Country Museum archives.





### **1907 – Interlaken**

The Interlaken area consisted of those...lands in the district situated between the east side and the west side benches of Oyama. Developer H. P. (Breezy) Lee acquired 116 acres of land from Samuel Young. He had the land surveyed and held a contest to name the new subdivision. Dr. Irvine's suggestion of Interlaken was accepted and he was awarded the \$50. prize. The year was 1907.

Source: Ellison, Ken V. *Irrigation is King!*

### **1907 – Lodge Road**

Lodge Road took its name from William Lodge, who came to the Winfield area in 1907. His first job was working for M.P. Williams after which he went to work for Sidney Edwards, both well-known names in the area at that time.

William Lodge along with Archie MacMaster, another pioneer to the area, was heavily involved in the building of the railway fence through Winfield. Lodge also assisted in the building of the irrigation flume in 1922. For a good many years he worked as a school janitor, while at the same time was involved in many construction jobs, one of which was the building of the Clement's store.

Source: Powley, Mrs. W. R. "Early Days of Winfield."

### **1907 – Maddock Avenue (Road)**



Maddock Avenue (Road) was established in Okanagan Centre in 1907. It started at 3rd Street and was a dead-end road. The name comes from the Maddock brothers, early pioneers who moved to this area around 1872. In 1907 the Maddock brothers were selling ten and twenty acre lots for apple orchards.

The Maddock brothers were instrumental, along with other early pioneers, in finding a water source for the bench lands in Okanagan Centre. At the time the pumps, which were wind powered, did not have the power to take the water for very long distances and as a result a decision was made to run a water line from the Chain Lakes in Fir Valley. In later years this water source became the domestic water system for most of the areas of Winfield and Okanagan Centre, and the Maddock brothers played a major role in this important project.

In 1908 the Maddock brothers gave a plot of land (East half of lot 66, Plan 444) for the sole use as a cemetery.

Source: *The Magazine*, March 6, 1997; and Baughen, Penny. *Carr's Landing. A History*. Carr's Landing, BC: Carr's Landing Community & Recreation Association, 2006.



2800.001.000 Homer Maddock 1895



2006.001.001 Mrs. Homer (Mabel) Madlock 1906



### **1907 – Pretty Road**

Pretty Road was established in 1907 and stretched from Highway 97 at the junction of Oceola Road; it was a dead end street. This road was named after the Pretty family who built the first house on the street.

George Pretty worked for the Okanagan Land Company. Ten years later George bought four acres of land in the area now known as his namesake Pretty Road, and another ten acres of land on Okanagan Centre Road.

In 1956 he sold part of his orchard, then sold the remainder in 1961 when he and Neva built a house on Kalamalka Lake.

In 1964 Pretty bought the Crystal Waters Resort which was run by Neva and their son whilst George was still involved for most of his time in his building business. In 1971 the Prettys sold Crystal Waters, and moved into their home built by George on Okanagan Lake close to Westbank, where they stayed for eight years before relocating to another home built by George at McKinley Landing.

George was once asked how Pretty Road was named and his answer was *“There was no road at all when I lived there, the only road went straight from Highway 97 at Lakeshore and ended there. One day the Department of Highways sent out a Cat and pushed the road through to Robinson and because my house was the only one along the new road I guess they decided to name it Pretty Road”*.

Source: *The Calendar*, April 25, 1984; and Lake Country Museum archives.

See also: [Backward Glances: Pretty Road](#) and [Backward Glances: George Pretty](#).

### **1907 – Williams Road Established**

Williams Road, established in 1907, was named after M. P. Williams. The road started at Bond Road and terminated at Okanagan Centre Road East. It was paved in 1974.

Malcolm Parker (M. P.) Williams arrived in the Okanagan area around 1903, travelling here from Berkshire, England. There was a large amount of land for sale just then and he bought 1750 acres of land at the southeast end of Wood Lake. He set up a sheep ranch on the land and three years later built his house and barns. It was at this time that he brought Mr. and Mrs. W. Petrie to join him to help with the running of his ranch.

Williams was also credited with establishing the first dairy herd in the area. He later changed to rearing beef cattle. M. P. was a prominent member of the Farmers' Institute and the Anglican Church.

Shortly before his death in 1936 he sold part of his land on the lakeshore to the Vernon Fruit Union which then built the Woodsdale Packing House and Cold Storage Plant there. Williams' house became a boarding house for the packing house workers and George Reiswig bought his ranch.

See also [M. P. Williams](#) and [Petrie Road](#).

Source: Powley, Mrs. W. R. “Winfield — Early Days of Winfield, B.C.”; and Historical Review of the Anglican Church in Lake Country, 1901-2007.

### **1908 – Kaloya Park**

Egbert and Annie Trask were married in Nova Scotia in 1886 and moved to Yakima, Washington, where they operated a sheep ranch until moving to Wenatchee, Washington, a few

years later to try fruit farming. In 1908, they moved to the Okanagan establishing an orchard in Oyama on the banks of Kalamalka Lake; they purchased the land from the late Samuel Young.

They called their home Iris Point (also known as Trask Point), but today it is the site of Kaloya Park. A commemorative plaque at the Park pays tribute to Annie Trask as the charter president of Kalamalka Women's Institute in 1914.

### **1908 – Tyndall Road**

Tyndall Road, established in 1908, runs from Okanagan Centre Road through to Camp Road. The road today is still only partially surfaced.

This road took its name from an early mining pioneer, Sam Tyndall, who resided in this area. Tyndall's marriage was the first to be held in the new United Church which Sam had helped build. We don't know which was more important, the marriage or his love for hunting, as it is said that he went hunting on the day of his marriage.

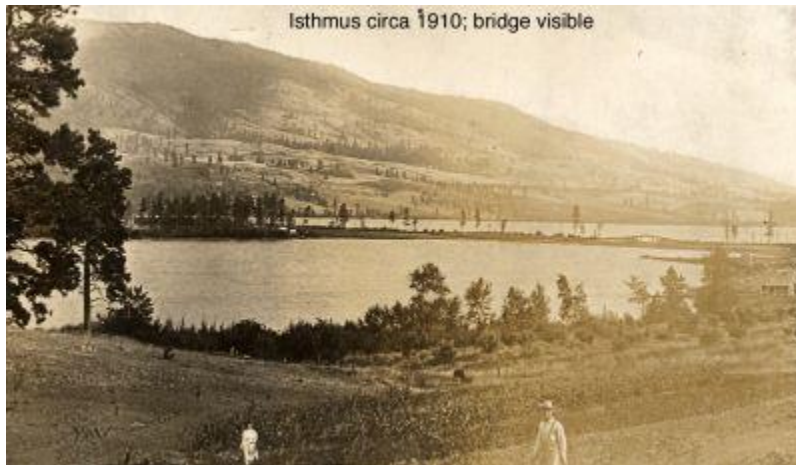
Sam Tyndall was born on March 9, 1891, in Ireland in the Republic of Wicklow. It was twenty-one years later, on his birthday, that Sam set foot on Canadian soil and made his way by train to the Okanagan. For the first few years Sam worked on various farms until 1916 when he joined up for the Canadian Army. He served his time in France for the duration of the first World War.

On his return to Winfield after the war ended, Sam worked on the railway, on the stretch between Kelowna and Vernon. Later in 1927 Sam and Doris bought property where they raised cattle and had a dairy along with their own milk route. His dairy business expanded and later he shipped his milk to the first Kelowna Creamery. In later years, until his retirement, his milk was sent to NOCA.

Both Sam and Doris were active members in the Missionary Church which is where they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 15, 1983.

Source: *The Calendar*, October 12, 1983; Lake Country Museum archives.

### **September 5, 1908 – Completion of Canal**



To improve transportation for the steamers on the lakes the Dominion Government undertook to dig a canal to connect Wood and Long Lakes. This canal on the west end of the Railroad was completed on September 5, 1908 and it allowed the several lake steamers access to Wood Lake and its freight and logging possibilities. In the process Wood Lake, which was three to four feet higher, was equalized with Long (Kalamalka) Lake rising about 12 inches.

Source: Ellison, Ken V. *Irrigation is King!*

### **March 25, 1909 – Road on West Shore of Wood Lake**

When the canal between Wood Lake and Long Lake (Kalamalka) was completed in 1908, the water level of Wood Lake dropped, exposing a margin around the lake. It was on this margin that a new road was built in 1909 replacing a portion of the old Mission Road. This road became Highway 5 which was later renamed Highway 97.

### **1909 – Alvaston and the Jam Tin Post Office**

The forgotten name is Alvaston.

Arthur Chatterton, the first Postmaster of Alvaston, was actually born in London, England, in 1876 but his father, George Joseph, was born in Alvaston, Derbyshire, and his grandfather, John, held a considerable amount of property in Alvaston and was appointed as Overseer to the Poor in the mid 1800s.

In the 1881 British Census, George Joseph was listed as a Commerical Clerk in London and had quite a large household including a servant.

Arthur's brother, Richard, was witness at Arthur's marriage to Alice Waters at St. Andrew's Church in Vernon on 18th December, 1907. Richard was living at Okanagan Landing at the time. Arthur's address is shown as "Woods Lake, near Vernon, BC".

The Post Office of Alvaston existed for ten years — 1909 to 1919. For a Post Office that was open for ten years it is a surprisingly scarce mail marking. There is, however, a very good reason for this scarcity over and above the obvious one of a lack of local population making use of the Post Office service. The Post Office was located about half a mile from the mail coach route that kept to the Okanagan Mission to Vernon road and more use was made of the packing case at the sign on the stagecoach road than of the Post Office itself. Ingoing and outgoing mail was placed in the packing case, left by, or to be picked up by, the Vernon-Kelowna stage. Also in the packing case was a jam tin containing a small supply of stamps for which money was left in the tin by anyone needing stamps.

Source: *The Calendar*, September 2, 1987.

Source for the name Alvaston: Penny Baughen.

### **1909 - First Oyama School**

By 1909 there were six school age children in Oyama. This was not enough students to start a Provincial school so the parents hired their own teacher, and a room in the Lloyd's house on the east side of Wood Lake was used as the first school. The children attending the first school were: Jack Towgood, Mabel Irvine, Edna and Floyd Whipple and the two Geer children. The first teacher was Barbara Irving.

According to the records, a meeting was held in 1910 to elect the first School Board in Oyama. Dr. W. H. Irvine, A. Geer and A. S. Towgood were the first Trustees. It was their job to hire teachers, manage the finances and maintain the school.

The four Towgood children: Jack, Tom, Alice and Robert all completed grades one to eight; they were the first Towgood generation to go to Oyama School. A total of three generations of Towgoods have gone through Oyama School.

As the number of students increased the first school building was erected in the form of a lean-to tarpaper shack that stood just west of the Lloyd home.

Source: Bernardo, Sandra. *The Histories of Winfield, Oyama, Okanagan Centre and the Commonage Schools*.

*See also:* 1910, 1915, 1920, 1935, 1945, 1955, 1960, 1970, 1975, and 2000.

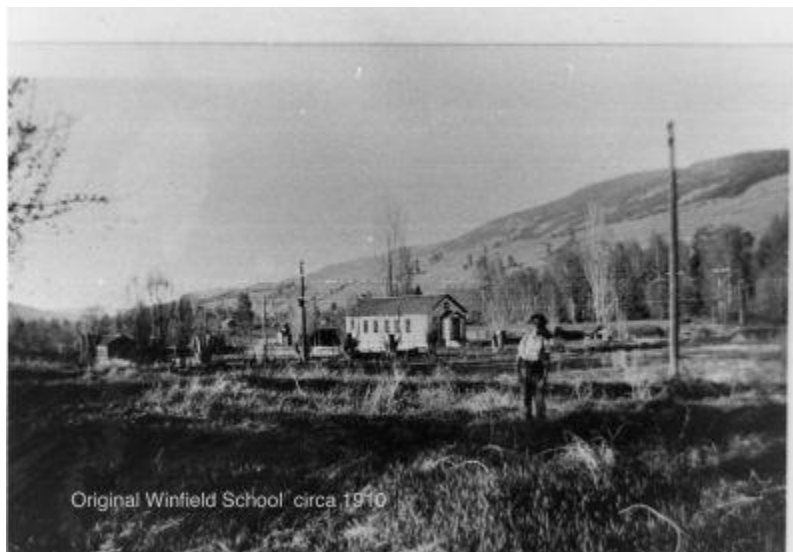
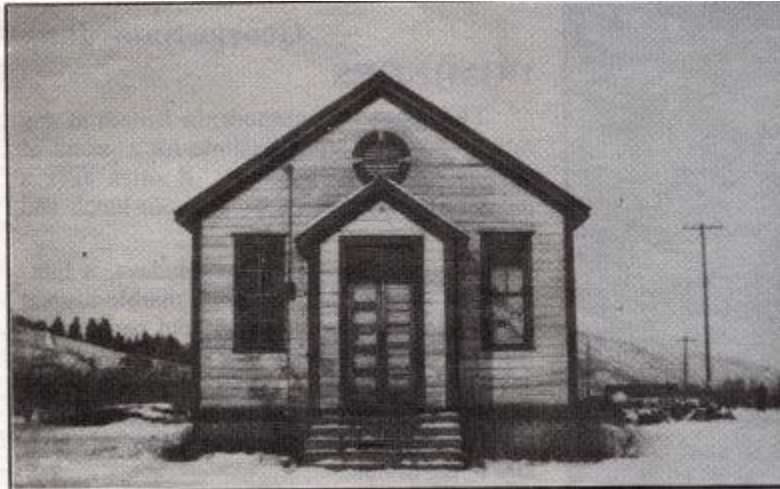
### **1909 – First Winfield School**

The first meeting of the Wood Lake School District (Winfield) was held at the home of James Pearcey in the summer of 1909. At this meeting a provincial board of trustees was elected, consisting of James Pearcey, Sherman Jones and J. W. Fowler. School was opened the following February in the small house owned by the Dacres, and later by James Owen.

The first teacher was Mrs. Asher, whose daughter later taught at Winfield. Both Harvey and Charles Simpson, Mrs. Avery Phillips, Margaret Metcalfe, and Hazel, daughter of Tom Lidstone, attended this school.

A new school, Wood Lake Grades One to Eight, was built on the site of the first community hall. It was opened in the fall of 1910 and remained in use until 1921. In that year a committee consisting of M. P. Williams and W. R. Powley went to Victoria, and obtained from the Government a gift for the community of the land and the old school building.

The school was later enlarged and became the Community Hall.



### **October 27, 1910 – All Saints Anglican Church**

When the cornerstone of the original Anglican Church was removed, one of the papers discovered in a soft tin box at the top of the stone was a copy of the *Vernon News*, dated October 27, 1910.



Thanks to Reverend Eric Dexter, the current Anglican minister at St. Margaret's in Winfield, the following summary of that newspaper's coverage of the laying of the cornerstone is reproduced here.

In the Vernon paper there was an appeal for loads of stone as a "free contribution" to the foundations of the church as work was to begin before winter. It is interesting to learn that the Church was to be called All Saints.

At this time the Rt. Rev. A.U. DePencier, Bishop of New Westminster and acting Bishop of Kootenay, paid a visit for the purpose of laying the foundation stone.

The ceremony included a procession from the Vicarage to the church site.

Accompanying the Bishop were the Rev. T. Greene of St. Michael, Kelowna, the Rev. H.D. King of Armstrong and the Rev. H.A. Solly of Summerland as well as the Rev. Owen Bulkeley, the vicar.

The service was described as impressive and the Bishop as eloquent and inspired. He referred to the noble heritage of the Anglican Catholic Church, of the constant extension of the church even in such a scattered remote district, to perpetuate throughout all ages the same worship in which our forefathers had joined.

The church wardens, Mr. Northcote Caesar and Mr. Bolton, assisted the Bishop in laying the mortar. The Bishop pronounced, "In the faith of Jesus Christ, we place this foundation stone in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost."

All Saints Anglican Church was never finished or consecrated. Lack of funding and changing population patterns eventually led to the structure being donated for the community hall.

Source: Unknown newspaper article dated August 4, 1982.



## 1910 – Allison Road

Allison Road was first established in May 1910. Its starting point was at Oyama Road and it terminated at Middlebench Road. It saw its first paving in 1953. The namesakes for Allison Road were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allison.

Robert and Dorothea Allison were married in 1913, a year after Dorothea Scott-Coward came to teach at the Okanagan Centre School. Dorothea was born in Lancashire, England and she received her teaching degree at Cambridge College in England. The Allisons lived in Oyama where Robert was an orchardist and Dorothea was heavily involved as a founding member of the Oyama Womens' Institute, as well as being an active member on the Okanagan School Board.

At the time of their retirement in 1953, Robert and Dorothea moved to Kelowna. Mrs. Allison was given the honour of charter member of the Kelowna Art Exhibit Society and both she and Robert were assistant editors of a local historical magazine. Dorothea also wrote several books and lived to the great age of 102.

Source: *The Calendar*, February 17, 1981 and Lake Country Museum archives.

A collection of the [Letters of Dorothea Scott-Coward Allison](#) is available on the Royal BC Museum website.

## 1910 - Camp Road



Photograph: Japanese community workers' Camp.

Camp Road runs from the Winfield Fire Hall on Okanagan Road East, to Okanagan Centre. It was named after the camps where the Japanese community agricultural workers lived.

Many Japanese pioneers began working in the Okanagan Valley on the Coldstream Ranch and between 1910 and 1920, some migrated to Okanagan Centre and Winfield and worked for the Okanagan Valley Land Company. This Company entered into a contract with Denbei Kobayashi, who was to be in charge of planting fruit trees on the Rainbow Ranche. Mr. Kobayashi hired a

number of Japanese labourers to assist him in the new orchard that was managed by one of the owners, Mr. James Goldie.

Socially and culturally, the Japanese community was generally self-contained, as it was the practice of the time to exclude many nationalities (non-English and non-western) from formal clubs and activities. Most of the Japanese initially lived in one of two camps — the Rainbow Ranche camp and the camp on Seaton Road. Later, some families bought property, built homes and ran their own orchards or farms.

Eventually many of the pioneers of the Lake Country Japanese community returned home, usually after the death of a spouse or retirement from the business world. However, many of their children remained and came to play a significant part in the history here as their parents had done.

Source: Fiwchuk, Michelle. ['The Japanese Pioneers of Lake Country'](#). (Winfield, Oyama, Okanagan Centre). Okanagan Centre, BC: Lake Country Museum, 1993; and *The Calendar*, February 23, 1994.

### **1910 – Sawmill Road**

Sawmill Road was established in September 1926. The original name for Sawmill Road was Young-Geer Road.

Mr. Geer had a home at 'Cosy Corner' on Long (Kalamalka) Lake. This is the site of Pier Mac's log home which was being constructed in 2006. Geer sold thirty-four acres of meadow land to Sam Young. Above the lake, Geer also owned a parcel that eventually became part of Vernon Ellison's Kalwood Ranch. This property extended west from 'Marsh Lake' (the Oyama Swamp) and over the hillside. The lower part of Ellison's property included the present sawmill area and the gravel pit started by Ed Tarasawich and Clayton Schmidt.

Source: Young, Joyce. 2006.

### **1910 – Todd Road**

Todd Road was established 1910 and paved 1953. It is between Hayton Road and Middle Bench Road in Oyama.

Mr. Todd was in his senior years when he sold his place on the present Todd Road in the 1920s to Mrs. Winnifred Peters. Daughter Beth Peters (now Smith) was a young girl of seven then. She resides in a new home that she had built on the same property.

Source: Young, Joyce. 2006.

### **1910, approx. – Pixton Road**

Pixton Road was named for the Pixton family probably sometime after 1910.

P.W., as Percy Walter Pixton was known, was from a wealthy family in Liverpool. In his twenties, he and his brother Eric travelled to Argentina where they worked on a sheep ranch. Unfortunately for P.W., the adventure led to malaria from which P.W. never fully recovered. When he was well enough to travel, he returned to England.

Following a brief stay in his home country, P.W. journeyed to the United States where he met and married his auburn haired Ella. Searching for the best climate for P.W.'s health, they lived briefly in Mexico before travelling north to Canada.

Percy Walter Pixton and his Virginia-born wife, Ella Lillian Howver Pixton, arrived in British Columbia in 1909 where their first child, Andrew Cunliff, was born.

The family lived and farmed at the end of Pow Road until their move to a large house above Pixton Road. P.W. planted an orchard, became an insurance agent for the Royal Insurance Company in Vancouver, and he and Ella became involved in community activities. They had a second son, William Paulsel. Paulsel was a family name on his mother's side.

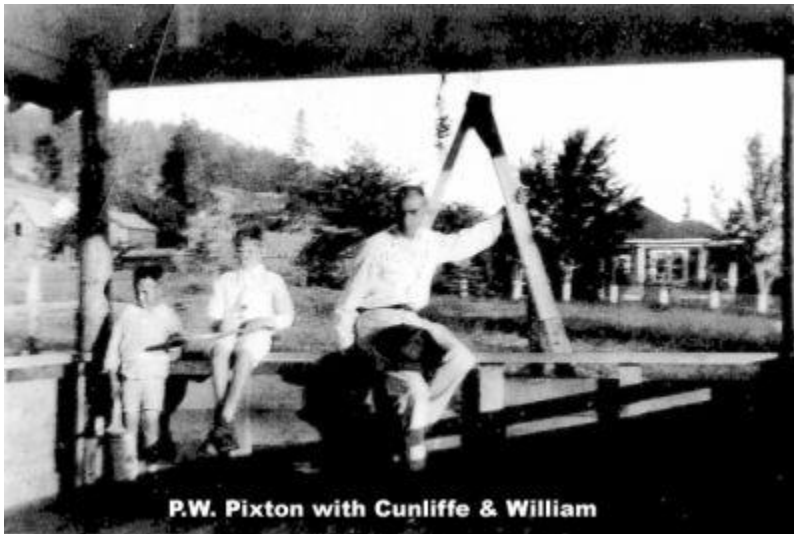
In his late teens Cunliff moved to California where he became involved in the fruit industry, married and raised a family. Bill married, too, but remained in the Okanagan community.

Their first house burned to the ground. Rather than move from the area, they relocated a little further north to the lakeshore at the end of the road where they built a new home.

P.W. died in Kelowna in 1963 at 86 years of age. Ella died six years later at 92. Cunliffe died in Kern County at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley in 1971. Bill died a few years later in Kelowna.

Source: Baughen, Penny. *Carr's Landing. A History*. Carr's Landing, BC: Carr's Landing Community & Recreation Association, 2006.





P.W. Pixton with Cunliffe & William

### **1911 – Oyama School “the little white school house”**

In 1911, the one room “little white school house” was built on land across the road from the Railway Section House. The building was also used for meetings, social gatherings and church services.

Source: Bernardo, Sandra. *The Histories of Winfield, Oyama, Okanagan Centre and the Commonage Schools*.

*See also:* 1905, 1915, 1920, 1935, 1945, 1955, 1960, 1970, 1975 2000.

### **1911 – Tennis Club Organized**

The Okanagan Centre Tennis Club is organized with its court situated near the old community store.

Source: *The Magazine*, June 25, 1998.

### **1912 - Gibson House**



In 1912, George Gibson hired local carpenter Teddy Hare to build the beautiful two-storey family home with its large verandahs in the style of the day, to which Gibson brought his bride after their wedding in England.

Jim Glead, a local stonemason, built the pink granite fireplace in the sitting room, and a rock wall to contain the lawn and garden above the beach.

Gibson joined the Canadian Army in 1916. He transferred to a British regiment in England, where his wife and baby daughter Pamela had moved 'for the duration' and in 1918 a second daughter Joan was born. Gibson was taken prisoner in Lille, France, and sent for six months to a prisoner of war camp on the Baltic Sea.

After the family was repatriated to Canada in 1919, Gibson turned to mixed farming.

For a number of years, the Gibsons invited the Kelowna Sea Cadets and Girl Guides to use part of the shore for their annual summer camps. That property, at the very southern boundary, was eventually purchased by the Girl Guides of Canada and named Camp Arbuckle for Ida Arbuckle, District Commissioner for Kelowna.

Source: *The Calendar*, May 22, 1996.

*See also* 1906, 1951, 1987 and 1996.

Many descendents of the Gibsons still live in Lake Country. The house has been entirely restored and refurbished by community donation. It is furnished with artifacts from the 1910-1930 and contains local historical information. It is open on weekends during the summer.



### **1913 - Eversley House (Gibson House)**



2004.000.023 Bob and Pam Wentworth sitting on rock wall at Gibson House 1940s

Built in 1913 by Teddy Hare, Curly Carter and Jim Gleed, Eversley House was built for George Gibson. Eversley was named after the place in England where Gibson came from.

Gibson lived there until the 1940s when Ernie Broome of Vancouver bought it. There were little bunk houses and cabins built around the Eversley house in the Broomes' time.

Ernie was an Member of Parliament for Vancouver South with Diefenbaker in 1957-1960 and a Vancouver Alderman for years. He ran Eversley as a summer children's camp and called it Camp Kopje after the hill located behind it. Spion Kopje, pronounced "copy", was named after a battle in the Boer War, though it is not known by whom.

Mr. Gibson picked up all sorts of arrowheads and artifacts on the site, suggesting it was an Indian gathering ground. Mrs. Gibson gave them to Gilbert Arnold of Winfield after her husband's death.

### **1913 – Irrawarra**

Irrawarra, owned by Arthur Fleetwood Wilson from 1913 to 1926, was probably named after the community of Irrawarra, near Colac, Victoria, in Australia. Wilson had emigrated from Australia to England. He bought land in the Okanagan both on Okanagan Lake and in Oyama.

### **1913 – V\_V Ranch**

Arthur Fleetwood Wilson purchased land, the V\_V Ranch (V Bar V), at the south-east corner of Long Lake, and ran this property as a ranch for several years.

### **1916 – Oyama School Expanded**



By 1916 Oyama's 'little white school house' was overcrowded so in February 1917, a new two-storey school with two classrooms was built. At the School Trustees meeting on February 13, 1917, it was decided that 'Oyama School' would be painted on the front of the School. It was also decided that a 'No Dogs Admitted' sign would be placed in front of the School and that a gravel path be made leading to the entrance.

Just after that, the School Board asked Long Lake Irrigation for the privilege of transferring their water system to the school and water pipes were installed. The pipes brought water from Oyama Lake to the school. An old cement reservoir stored water for use in the winter. Even though the school had a source of water, indoor plumbing was not available and so outhouses were used until 1938.

The basement of the new school consisted of two rooms: one was the girls' playroom and the other a boys' playroom. The school had a furnace room between the classrooms with a wood furnace that was tended to by the older students. There were two side entrances, one for the boys and one for the girls. The front entrance was strictly for the teachers and visitors. Each classroom had a cloakroom and a small office for each of the two teachers.

In those years the emphasis was on academic subjects; the Board provided no sports equipment at all.

In May 1916, the Kalamalka Women's Institute set up a local scholarship fund to help Oyama students attend high school because at that time high school was not available in Oyama and the students had to go elsewhere for a high school education.

Source: Bernardo, Sandra. *The Histories of Winfield, Oyama, Okanagan Centre and the Commonage Schools*

*See also:* 1905, 1910, 1920, 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965, 1970, 1975, and 2000.

## **1917 – O. W. Hembling Buys Fruit Ranch**

Orris Woolner Hembling was born in Bloomingdale, in Waterloo County, Ontario in 1877. After harvest excursions to Saskatchewan and Manitoba, he took up a homestead six miles west of Didsbury, Alberta. In 1900 he married Minnie Beamish, also from Ontario, at the Baptist parsonage in Calgary.

Before long, the business opportunities in Didsbury proved more inviting than farming and O.W. found work in the building trade. He and his growing family lived in Didsbury for 18 years. In April, 1917, the Hemblings disposed of the farm, sold the house in town and moved to Oyama. They named the 30 acre property, Pinehurst Ranch. Here Orris was a successful orchardist.

Orris was active in community work. He was a member of the Committee of Direction (fruit growing industry) and served as a director of the Vernon Fruit Union (V.F.U.) for thirteen years, the last nine of which he was president of this organization. From 1923 to 1934 he also acted as a director of the Associated Growers of B.C. and served as vice-president on several occasions.

In 1926 he talked about initiating marketing legislation for fruit. The idea did not bear fruit at first but in 1933, Hembling, along with a committee of ten primary producers, met in Regina to push for a Federal marketing act. As a result, the Natural Products Marketing Act was passed on June 7, 1934.

Hembling relinquished the vice-presidency of the Associated Growers and the presidency of the V.F.U. to take his place on the Tree Fruit Board. In 1934 he travelled to Ottawa and on to London to attend the Empire and Commonwealth Fruit Growers Conference. In the spring of 1935, under both provincial and federal legislation, the B. C. growers voted 96% in favour of continuing with the B. C. Fruit Board.

Minnie Hembling died in 1947. O.W. later married Johanna Cummins, in 1949. Orris died on February 27, 1967, just a few months short of his 90th birthday.

Source: Lake Country Museum archive

### **1918 – Oyama United Church**

Oyama United Church was built in 1918. The land was donated by Mr. Young; the financing was provided by Dr. Irvine and Mr. McClure constructed it. It is now the Oyama Fire Hall.

### **1920 – Official Name for Winfield**

In 1920 the people of the Winfield area decided that they needed to have an official name for their area. As a result, a meeting was organized by The United Farmers Institute and the name Winfield, which was suggested by William Powley, was duly accepted by all those present.

Source: Wilson, Brian. *K'Lakokum*.

### **1920s – Seaton Road**

Seaton Road was established in the 1920s and paved in 1977.

The name Seaton is prominent in Lake Country. We have Seaton Road, Seaton Springs and Jack Seaton Park. Our local high school, George Elliot Secondary, presents the Jack Seaton trophy every year to a student who combines athletic and academic excellence.

Jack Seaton is fondly remembered as one of Winfield's most enterprising and respected businessmen. In 1903, J. E. (John Edwin) Seaton died leaving his son, Jack, age 13, as the main breadwinner for his family. Jack, and his siblings under his guidance, augmented the family income by picking fruit and helping with the pruning. Two years after his father's death, Jack went to work in the logging camps in the Trepanier Creek area.

During World War I, Jack saw action with the 318th Canadian Infantry Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. After his war service, Jack returned to Winfield where he set up the Seaton Fruit Company. He later joined his own logging company with that of The Main River Sawmill, making him one of the largest logging contractors in the area.

Jack Seaton owned 110 acres of orchard land and two packinghouses. In addition to his logging and orchard interests, he was chairman of the Winfield and Okanagan Centre Irrigation District.

Jack married Eva Coe, the daughter of Walter and Katherine Coe who were another prominent orchardist family, in 1924. Eva and Jack didn't have any children but were renowned for their generosity. According to Les Clement, the one time owner of the Winfield Store, "*Jack was always there to help anyone get started*". Many said that Jack Seaton was Winfield's unofficial bank as he loaned money to many young men who were starting out, yet never let it be known to anyone.

From 1921 through 1925, Jack was the foreman of a crew hired to lay the CNR rail lines from Kamloops through Winfield and then on to Kelowna.

Jack and Eva were always active in the community and supported many worthy causes. Jack was a member of the Winfield Memorial Hall Board for many years as well as being a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Jack died in 1965. His funeral was like a 'mini League of Nations'. He was buried in Lakeview Cemetery, overlooking the hills that he had logged, and Duck Lake, where he had loved to watch the wildlife.

Source: British Columbia Archival Union List' Jack Seaton fonds; *The Calendar*, June 29, 1994; and Lake Country Museum archives.



2007.019.008 Seaton Packing House



1997.000.131 Jack Seaton & Sid Land looking N.E. over south end of Woods Lake 1960s

### **1921 – Okanagan Centre Library**

In 1921 the Okanagan Centre Women's Institute decided to be responsible for a local library (I think that the people who actually used the library paid \$1.00 a year). The librarian was appointed by the Institute and money allocated to buy books. Also, in the beginning, members donated books to form a nucleus.

At one time as many as 556 books were in the library. Books were exchanged with Oyama and one or two other Institutes who had a librarian.

The book cupboard was kept in the Presbyterian Church that was also used as the school.

In 1936, the library was passed over to the Union Library.

Source: Manuscript, author unknown.

### **1921 – Oyama School—High School**

By 1921 the Oyama community felt that it needed a high school. An extra classroom was added to the back of the Oyama School at a cost of \$6,000.

The high school went from grade nine to grade eleven, which was matriculation at that time. Later, grade twelve was added. Mr. Bendrodt was the first high school teacher and he conducted classes in the kitchen of the Community Hall for the first few months until the new room was finished.

Until 1945 Oyama had the only high school between Vernon and Rutland. In 1924 students from Winfield were allowed to attend high school in Oyama but were limited in number to the

capacity of the room. They also had to pay tuition, paid by the parents and/or the Winfield School Board, to the Oyama School Board. Students travelled from Winfield to Oyama in the 'Winfield School Bus' which was a car driven by Eldred Berry. Later some students came by bicycle because there wasn't enough room in the car.

In 1922 water pipes were installed and a drinking fountain was put in the main hallway upstairs.

Most of the teachers at that time were boarded with families in Oyama.

Source: Bernardo, Sandra. *The Histories of Winfield, Oyama, Okanagan Centre and the Commonage Schools*.

*See also:* 1905, 1910, 1915, 1935, 1945, 1955, 1960, 1970, 1975, and 2000.

### **1921 – Tennis Club Builds New Courts**

The Tennis Club built new clay courts and a Pavillion on what is now the playground of the Okanagan Centre School (Lake Country Museum site). Northcote Caesar donated the land. The Club operated on this site until 1956.

Source: *The Magazine*, June 28, 1998.

It was a popular pastime in the 1920s to belong to the Okanagan Centre Tennis Club or at least to come watch and drink tea. Mixed Doubles matches were held every year. The winners would receive the "Rainbow Cup", referring of course to Rainbow Ranche. According to the cups donated by Tom Collinson, Mr. Collinson and Mrs. Gibson won in 1931, 1934, 1935 and 1936. Herb Fallow donated the cups from 1937 and 1938 when he and Mrs. Fallow were the winners of the mixed doubles match.

Source: Lake Country Museum.

### **1921 – Trewhitt Road East**

Established in 1921, Trewhitt Road East branches off of Oyama Road and is named after John (Jack) Trewhitt.

John was born in Sunderland, England, in 1890 and at the age of 16 he emigrated to Canada. He worked in Manitoba and later bought a homestead in Alberta.

In 1914 Trewhitt joined the Army and went overseas. He became a Lieutenant and was presented with the Military Medal and the Military Cross for bravery by King George V at Buckingham Palace. Near the end of 1918 he was injured at the Hindenburg Line in Belgium and was sent to the Plymouth Hospital in England. One of his nurses there was Edith Symons. He married her in December 1918.

The following year John and Edith came to Canada and spent one year in Winnipeg; they then moved to British Columbia where they purchased two 10 acre lots of land and 90 acres of pasture land in Oyama. John planted orchards on both of the 10 acre lots. One of them was on Trehwitt Road East. He built his home on the other one. John and Edith raised two children there — Beryl, born in 1922, and Arnold, born in 1924. For many years John was a Director with the Wood Lake Water Company.

In 1943 Beryl and Arnold joined the Royal Canadian Airforce. Arnold spent most of the time as a flying instructor in Canada. When the war ended in 1945 Arnold and his wife, Gladys Dungate, bought the property from John and Edith when they retired and moved to Okanagan Landing (later to Kelowna).

John passed away in Kelowna 1983 at the age of 92 years. Edith passed away at *Pleasant Meadows* in Winfield (Lake Country) in 1988 at the age of 97 years.

Arnold and Gladys raised their family — eight girls and one boys — on the family farm in Oyama.

Source: Gladys Trehwitt, 2011.

NB: Gladys Trehwitt died on January 28, 2012.

### **1921 - Winfield Community Hall, First**



Built in 1910 as a school, this building became the First Winfield Hall

In the Minutes of the Winfield Hall Association's April 5, 1921 meeting, Chairman E. C. Shanks read a letter from Minister of Education, Mr. J.D. McLean, which stated that the Department was willing to allow the old school building to be used as a public hall and that any necessary alterations should be carried out. It was also to be understood that the control of the building must remain in the authority of the trustees (of the Winfield School District).

A plan of the proposed alterations had been prepared by Mr. N. Prowse, and Mr. Middleton had made a rough estimate of the cost of material and labour. Their report estimated the probable cost as around \$1,000.

Source: *The Calendar*, February 10, 1988.

## **1922 – Gatzke Road Established**

Gatzke Road in Oyama begins at Highway 97 and is a dead end road. The road is named after a prominent Oyama family.

In 1928, at the age of 20, Wanda Hardwig emigrated to Canada from Poland. She settled in Vernon and worked at Bulman's Cannery. In 1931 she married Leo Gatzke.

Wanda and Leo moved to Oyama in 1939 where they purchased their first orchard. Wanda and Leo had five children: Donald, Bernie, Arnold, Alfred and Eileen.

During the 1940s and 1950s, at a time when the fruit industry was very prosperous, Leo and Wanda bought more property, expanding their orchard operation to 60 acres. The Gatzkes worked their orchards until they retired in 1980, when they sold part of their operation to their son, Bernie, and his son, Allan.

Bernie served for many years as a volunteer firefighter with the Oyama Fire Department. His wife, Helen, served as the Oyama representative on the Board of Trustees for School District #23. She also was a Founding Member and the first president of the Board of Directors of the Lake Country Museum.

Allan Gatzke married Ingrid Tepper of Winfield in 1983 and together they expanded into 'agritourism' by not only selling fruit from their Highway 97 stand but adding preserves and bakery items. Approaching the fruit stand, tourists can view the many old pieces of farm machinery, some of which were once used on the Gatzke property. Under Allan's ownership, the Gatzke farm is now said to be one of the largest operations in British Columbia.

In 2001, Allan Gatzke won the civic by-election as councillor-at-large.

Leo Gatzke and son, Donald, predeceased Wanda Gatzke who died in Kelowna on November 12, 2001. Most of the Gatzke descendants still reside in this area today and have given a lot of their time to the community.

Source: "Lives Remembered." *Okanagan History. The Sixty-sixth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Kelowna, BC: OHS, 2002. p. 191; Lake Country Museum archives (various *Calendar* articles).





Three Oyama Fire Department volunteers were presented with 20-year service medals from the B.C. Association of Volunteer Firefighters, and their wives received roses from the Oyama department at the recent annual women's ball. Seated from left: Bernia Gatzke, Paul Pike each with 22 years service; and Doug Elliot, 24 years service. Standing: Helen Gatzke, Mara Pike



## 1923 – Lloyd Road

Lloyd Road was first established in 1923 and named after one of Lake Country's most travelled pioneers, John Lloyd. John was the eldest of ten children of John Lloyd Sr. and Margaret Hammer Lloyd of Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire, North Wales.

At a young age John Lloyd sailed to Melbourne, Australia, where he mined for six years at Coolgardie, then later farmed in the Melbourne and Brisbane areas.

Sometime later he sailed on to New Zealand where John was given the appointment of secretary of the first Small Farm Association and was put in charge of forty strong and healthy pioneers

from Yorkshire, England. He, along with these pioneers, cleared the land for the settlement known as “Forty Mile Bush”.

In 1873 John Lloyd married Hannah Collins, an Australian, and on March 14, 1875 John and Hannah were proud parents of the first white child, Miriam Lucy Lloyd, to be born in the Hawkes Bay area.

In 1897 John set sail for America, leaving behind Hannah and two of his children, Margaret & James. John lived for a time in both Iowa and Tennessee. It was in 1902 that Dick and Amos, two of John’s children, travelled to the Okanagan in search of good farmland and stayed at the O’Keefe Ranch for a while.

John Lloyd arrived in Oyama and set up a ranch above the Irvines where they had a cabin above Mission Road. The Lloyd family were involved with logging and farming and had a good relationship with the local Indians who helped with the harvest in return for all the potatoes they wanted. Around 1908 John Lloyd decided it was time to take life easy and passed most of the work over to his family.

Source: Young, Joyce. *The Calendar*, February 8, 1995.

### **1923 - Winfield Elementary School**



Winfield School about 1939-1940

In 1923, a new school was built on the corner of what is now Berry Road and Highway 97, directly west of the original school (*See* 1905). It went from grade one to grade eight.

The new school consisted of two large rooms with two identical basement rooms directly underneath. The school had its doors at the front of the school facing east (the highway). These doors opened to a large steep stairway that ran between the two rooms of the school. If you went left or right from the foot of the stairs, you would be in one of the basement rooms. If you continued up the stairs you would find a cloakroom at the top. The two original rooms upstairs

each had a door that opened into the cloakroom. This area eventually became the school office. During the twenties and thirties, the basement rooms were used as playrooms. The girls played in the north room and the boys in the south room.

This school had many large windows because natural light was the main source of illumination. Coal oil lanterns hanging from the ceiling could be lit when necessary. The school was originally heated with coal. In the thirties, a furnace that burned four foot pieces of wood was installed. Indoor plumbing was not put in until the late thirties. Before that, there were two outhouses located on the west side of the school. These outhouses were unheated and had four stalls each. The boys used one and the girls used the other.

From 1921 to 1924, the Winfield Women's Institute made significant contributions to the school, including books, sewing materials, an organ, a flagpole and sports equipment. They sponsored music lessons, provided demonstrations of various handicrafts and helped with the Christmas concerts.

Mr. George F. Elliot was hired in 1923 to be one of the two teachers and the principal of Winfield School. He taught all of the intermediate students (grade five to eight) in one of the two rooms. He was the principal until he died in 1949.

In the early thirties, the Board built a teacherage at a cost \$2,400 on the school property. There was a narrow dirt road that ran just past the west end of the school building and all the way along to the teacherage. The Elliots moved into the teacherage in about 1932. The School Board charged Mr. Elliot \$20 a month in rent. When the school districts were amalgamated in 1945 to form School District No. 23, the rent was raised to \$50 a month.

After completing grade eight at Winfield School, the students had to go to Oyama School to get their high school education.

Source: Bernardo, Sandra. *The Histories of Winfield, Oyama, Okanagan Centre and the Commonage Schools*.

*See also:* 1945, 1950, 2001 and Oyama School 1905.

## **early 1920s - Berry Road**



1997.888.142 Winfield Elementary 1926 or 1927 L-R: Back: George Elliot, Grace Lawley, Jean Gurn, Walter Brodie, Grace Brodie, Daisy Petrie, Edmund Bailan, Kathleen Berry, Alfred Berry; Middle: Hope Clark, Margaret Connish, Adrian Clark, Daisy Edmunds, Margery McDonough, Ronnie Gaze; Front: George Arnold,

Berry Road in Winfield got its name from one of the areas early pioneers, Ralph Berry.

Ralph was born in Devonshire, England, and arrived in Canada in the early 1900s. He first settled in Ontario where he married. He and his new Canadian wife moved to Manitoba in 1910 where five of their children —Holly, Alfred, Kathleen, Ralph and George — were born.

In the early 1920s, the Berry family moved to British Columbia settling in Winfield where Mr. Berry purchased property at the corner of Okanagan Centre Road East and Berry Road. This was the property where the first store in Winfield was located and where the Berry family took up residence.

The Berrys had three more sons — Gilbert, Eldred and Gordon — but Gordon died soon after his birth. The Berry children attended the first Winfield school, located in the Community Hall and later went to Winfield Elementary School which was built in 1922. The Berry family were, and still are, a well-known family in the Winfield area.

Source: Pow, Vera Elizabeth. Published in *The Calendar*.

## May 1922 - Irvine Road Established



The Irvine family originated in Scotland and immigrated to the USA and Canada through Ireland.

Doctor William Irvine arrived in Oyama first in 1904, from Pilot Mound, Manitoba. He bought forty acres of land on the west side of Wood Lake and Long Lake from Frederick J. Gillard. William was the first orchardist of the family. He supposedly planted one of the first cherry trees in the area in 1905-1906. He also helped establish Long Lake Irrigation Co.

John Irvine and wife Annie, along with Henry, Emma, Barbara and Jr., came to live in Oyama about 1905; Ida and Jennie followed and Minnie arrived in 1912. Jennie became ill and wished to return to her old home so William took her back to Kingston, where she stayed until her death in 1918.

John built the house at the bottom of Irvine Road in Oyama for Henry and William about 1905 and then he and Annie went to live in Victoria for a year. They didn't like the weather so they moved back and built a house in Vernon.

The John Irvine family moved to Oyama in 1910 and bought 22 acres from the rest of the family. John built or remodelled a house on the upper road. They sold it in 1916 to build a new house.

Elizabeth (Henzy) Irvine, wife of John Irvine Sr., was the person who submitted the name 'Oyama' (after the Japanese Field-Marshal Iwao Oyama) to the Canadian Government for the name of the Post Office. Henry Irvine was the first postmaster in Oyama; he was appointed on May 1, 1906. A Post Office was established in Dr. Irvine's home in 1908.

Barbara Irvine was the first school teacher at [the old white school](#), built in 1911. Emma and Minnie Irvine acted as substitute teachers.

In 1927, William Irvine, John Irvine and Edgar G. Sherwood created the Unity Fruit Co. Ltd. They bought out the shares of the Co-Operative Farmers and moved such equipment as the

grader to Vernon. The last Unity Fruit building was built in 1948. It was destroyed by fire on October 30, 1960. The packinghouse closed in 1960 due to fewer orchards in the north Okanagan.

John Herbert Irvine died on March 21, 1951, aged 86. He was the last of three brothers who were among the first to plant commercial orchards at Oyama. He came to Vernon in 1904 and went to Oyama in 1910.

Source: Tassie, G. C. "Some Place-Names." *The Tenth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society of Vernon, British Columbia*. Vernon, BC: OHS, 1943. p.34; *The Fifteenth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Vernon, BC: OHS, 1951. p.15; Johnson, Mabel. "Alphonse Deschamps Came to Vernon in 1891." *The Nineteenth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Vernon, BC: OHS, 1955. p.124; Powley, W. R. "The Vernon-Kelowna Stage Half-way House." *The Twenty-first Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Vernon, BC: OHS, 1957. pp.34-40; Powley, Hume. Early Settlers in Oyama: 1893-1914." *Okanagan History. The Sixty-first Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Salmon Arm, BC: OHS, 1997. pp. 1101-106.