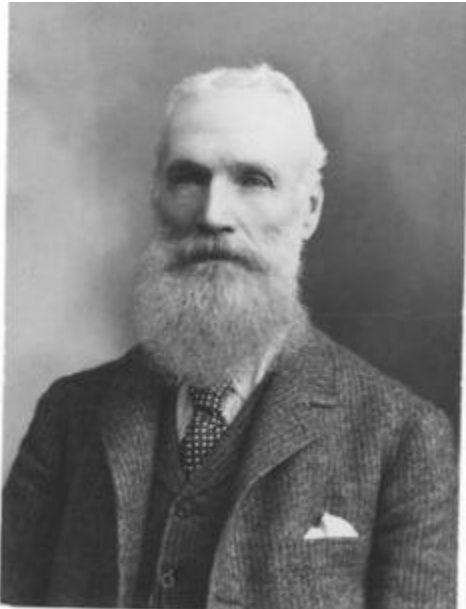


1858 - Wagon Train

The first record of a wagon train passing through the Okanagan Valley was in 1858 when the expedition of Palmer and Miller started out with nine wagons with supplies that would be needed by the gold miners from Walla Walla, Washington. They finally managed to reach Fort Kamloops where they sold their goods, horses and wagons. Parts of the Brigade Trail on the west side of Okanagan Lake were too steep for the heavily laden wagons so they built rafts, dismantled the wagons and loaded the wagons and their goods onto the rafts. They crossed Okanagan Lake from where Peachland is now and landed at Mission Creek. The horses and oxen went back to Penticton and up the east side of the lake through Wild Horse Canyon. The wagons were reassembled and proceeded along the valley to the east of Duck Lake and then up along the east side of Okanagan Lake.

1871 - Thomas Wood settles



Thomas Wood was born at Buena Vista, Newfoundland, on March 1, 1841. His parents were the Rev. Thomas Martin Wood and Mary Ann Finch, both natives of England.

He left his home in Newfoundland in 1861. He apparently tried prospecting for gold in various places and ended by driving a herd of cattle in partnership with Cornelius O'Keefe from California north to the Shuswap to feed miners in the Big Bend gold fields. He and his partners staked out land between two Indian reserves at the head of Okanagan Lake in order to raise cattle. Wood was one of the first permanent residents in the Okanagan Valley.

In 1871, Wood sold out to Tom Greenhow and established a new ranch at the foot of Long (Kalamalka) Lake on the hills and lower meadowlands to the east and south of Pelme wash Lake which became Wood Lake. He built a cabin, partly of logs and partly of whipsawn lumber and

called it Winfield Lodge. There is mention that his house was demolished in 1923 to clear the way for the CNR line.

On July 1, 1889 Wood married Ellen Florence “Nellie” Whelan. She was born at Chipping Barnet, Herts, England, on October 6, 1861, so was twenty years younger than Thomas. Her parents were Peter Whelan (born in Ireland) and Sarah Cordell Burr (born in England). Nellie’s brother, George Whelan, was a pioneer rancher in the Ellison District.

Thomas and Nellie had four daughters, all born in the Winfield District: Florence Finch Wood (1890-1980), May Francis Wood (1891-1983), Ruth Hilda Wood (1893-1982), and Winnifred Margaret Wood (1895-1898).

Wood was evidently prudent and inventive. He improved his herd by importing good bulls and at one time he gathered bunch grass, threshed it and took the seed to Brent’s Mill where he had it ground for flour. In 1891, his ranch was at one end of the first private telephone in the valley; it started at the Postill ranch at the north end of Duck Lake, ran for 5 miles and cost \$55 per mile to install. Thomas Wood was also a Justice of the Peace from 1875 to 1890.

Wood was 63 years old in 1902 when he decided to retire from ranching. He leased part of his property to Price Ellison and sold some of it to others. He and his family moved to Victoria because of Nellie’s poor health (diabetes) but Nellie died in Victoria in 1905 at the age of forty-two. They had been married just 16 years. Their daughters each married and Wood spent the rest of his life living with one or the other of them. He died in Vancouver on October 27, 1931 at the age of ninety.

Both Nellie and Thomas are buried in a family plot in the Ross Bay cemetery in Victoria. The grave is virtually unmarked, except for the name “Wood” on it. Nellie’s older sister, Mary Ann (Whelan) Patch, who came to the Okanagan in 1891 but died in 1905, is also buried in that grave, along with several other members of the Patch family.

Source: Robert “Bob” Hayes (great great nephew of Nellie and Tom Wood).

October 15, 1877 - Commonage

Canada and British Columbia signed the Agreement of 1875-1876 which established a joint Indian Reserve Commission. The commissioners passed Minutes of Decision to establish eight Indian reserves and a Commonage reserve in the North Okanagan. The Commonage was reserved for winter grazing by the cattle of both the Native people and the new settlers. No system for policing the cattle grazing on the Commonage was established. (Manuscript #7) The land was released for settlement in 1892 when the Indian Reserve Commissioners established an Indian reserve on the north west side of Okanagan Lake.

1885: Prior to 1890 - Carr’s Landing Road



Mr. Andrew Carr

Carr's Landing Road was first established sometime prior to 1890. It begins at the junction of Commonage Road in the north and ends at Okanagan Centre Road in the south. It was unpaved until 1977. The road takes its name from an American Civil War veteran, Andrew Carr, who was born in the United States in 1841.

Andrew Carr arrived in the Vernon area around 1891 with the intention of buying land. In October of 1892, the Government auctioned off large parcels — a total of 25,114 acres — of land in the Commonage. This area had been set aside as grazing land to be used jointly by Indigenous peoples and European immigrants, hence the name 'Commonage'. It was here that Andrew Carr bought some land in that part of the Commonage known as Sunnywold.

Even though Carr bought the Sunnywold land in 1892, early records show that up until 1898 he was still residing in Vernon. However, three years later in 1901, a census indicates that Carr had moved on to his Sunnywold property.

Andrew Carr became a Canadian citizen in 1895 and he listed his occupation as a farmer. He hired a Swedish immigrant, Joseph Hultman, a 30 year old labourer to help him run his farm.

On November 20, 1901, Carr married a 42 year old widow, Agnes Kennedy, from London, Ontario. The couple was married at the home of J. W. Bailey, a very well known brick maker from the North Okanagan region. Two months after their marriage the Carrs moved on to their property which was located where the Coral Beach Farms are today. On the land they planted various types of fruit trees and had a wharf built in front of their property. Carr's Landing (wharf) became a regular stop for the paddlewheelers that travelled up and down Okanagan Lake delivering mail and supplies and picking up produce. It was said that Andrew Carr would personally hand out the mail to those waiting on the wharf when a paddlewheeler docked.

Andrew Carr left his name as legacy in this area although his stay at Carr's Landing was short. He died at the age of 68 in 1910, only nine years after his marriage. Agnes lived for another 31

years. She died on April 25th, 1941. Both Andrew and Agnes are buried in the Vernon Cemetery.

Source: Baughen, Penny. *Carr's Landing. A History*. Carr's Landing, BC: Carr's Landing Community & Recreation Association, 2006; Okanagan Historical Society Reports; British Columbia Archives; *The Calendar*, June 9, 2004; and Lake Country Museum archives.

See also: Commonage

1890-1899 – Goldie Road

Goldie Road (formerly Caesar Road) was first established between 1890-1899. The starting point is at Okanagan Centre Road West and Carr's Landing Road and the road terminates at Okanagan Centre Road East. The road was originally surveyed by George Meredith Watt. Goldie Road was first paved in 1965.

The name Goldie was, and still is, a well-known name in Okanagan Centre. James Goldie arrived in the area on board the S. S. Okanagan in 1908. Not long after settling in Okanagan Centre Mr. Goldie, along with Robert S. Dormer, bought Mr. Robert Hewers' half interest of Rainbow Ranche.

Soon after purchasing the Rainbow Ranche James met the beautiful Jessie Ross who was the great grand-daughter of a British quartermaster who had settled in Quebec sometime during the latter part of the 1770s. Jessie became James' wife in February 1913 and one year later their first child, Anne, was born. Jessie and James went on to have two more children, Nancy and Bob.

Mr. James Goldie managed the Rainbow Ranche for 40 years until 1948 when the property was sub-divided into ten 12 acre lots. The family owned a large plot of land which included the house along with some of the lakeshore and both James and Jessie stayed in their home until they passed away in the early 1970s. Today Nancy McDonnell (nee Goldie) lives in the house on Pixton Road.

Many of the early Japanese settlers in Okanagan Centre worked in the orchards at Rainbow Ranche under the management of Denbei Kobayashi.

Source: Baughen, Penny. *Carr's Landing. A History*. Carr's Landing, BC: Carr's Landing Community and Recreation Association, 2006; Lake Country Museum archives.



2003.000.024 Rainbow Ranche House front view 2003



1893 - Commonage Auction

In October of 1893, Vernon city clerk Mr. Davies conducted the auction on three days between October 12 and October 23. There were 360 lots in the subdivision. Davies sold forty-two lots totalling 1,382 acres to fourteen buyers for \$6,375.50. Three hundred and sixteen lots remained unsold. Two lots were Crown granted prior to the sale. Leonard Norris was the auction clerk.

See also: 1875.

1893 – Rainbow Ranche

In 1893, the Barr brothers bought what was to become the Rainbow Ranche when land on “the Commonage” was put up for sale. They sold the property to Northcote H. Caesar and his partner T. F. Valentine. There was no irrigation so they grew hay, wheat and raised a few sheep. Caesar and Valentine dissolved their partnership in 1899 and in 1905, N. H. Caesar sold most of the property (save the south west corner) to F. Pow. Mr. Pow sold it again to J. E. McAllister and Frank Hewer. They planted the first orchard in 1906. By 1909, James Goldie and R. S. Dormer bought Hewer’s share.

James Goldie managed the Rainbow Ranche for 40 years until it was sub-divided in 1948. Ultimately there were about 125 acres of fruit, mostly apples, as well as pasture and rangeland. In 1909, ditch irrigation was available (from the Okanagan Valley Land Company).

The Rainbow Ranche was the first large acreage of fruit to be planted in Lake Country. Most of the land surrounding the Rainbow Ranche has now been sold and the house has passed out of the Goldie family.



Photo from the original Land Company brochure showing the new orchard of the Rainbow Ranche. Mr. Hewer in the Foreground.



The "Rainbow Rancho" contains the oldest buildings in Okanagan Centre. This beginning of the original house was built in 1898. This is how the ranch looked in 1900.
Photo courtesy — Mrs. P. McDannell





2007.010.006 Having the Rainbow

1893 - S. S. Aberdeen



Aberdeen 1915 loading fruit from the Rainbow Rancho at the wharf at the foot of Pixton Road

A classic western sternwheeler, the S. S. Aberdeen was completed in 1893. She was 44.5 m. (146 ft.) in length with a cargo deck capacity of 180 tonnes (200 tons). She was named after John Campbell Gordon, 7th Earl of Aberdeen, who owned the Coldstream Ranch in Vernon and who was made Governor General of Canada in 1893. The vessel, Aberdeen, was built to extend the Shuswap & Okanagan Railway line from Okanagan Landing down the lake to Penticton. The sternwheelers hauled fruit, lumber and supplies and carried passengers up and down Okanagan Lake.

Source: Turner, Robert D. *The Sicamous & the Naramata: Steamboat Days in the Okanagan.*

1895 - Carr's Landing

Carr's Landing was a 'stop' on the Okanagan Lake steamer route. It was named for Andrew Carr, a settler, who planted apple, pear and peach trees. He died in 1910.

A Post Office called Sunnywold was opened in July 1909 with Peter Sinclair as Post Master. It closed in July 1939. A school constructed of logs was built in 1896 — the first south of Vernon.

References: Reports of the Okanagan Historical Society 12:221 and 22:159

1896 – Caesar and Valentine buy Rainbow Ranche

Around 1896, when the Barr brothers wanted to join the gold rush, Northcote Caesar and his friend T. F. Valentine bought the Rainbow Ranche from them for \$2,000. They had no cash so they paid for it — half in notes which they hoped to make good by harvesting the timber on it, and half with a mortgage at 12% (later 8%). They planted wheat which was only semi-successful because of the lack of irrigation and because free-ranging cattle liked to eat it.

Northcote H. Caesar was born to a middle class family in the village of Downton near Salisbury in the south of England. He was born with a clubfoot and he had to wear an iron brace during his youth. Despite this disability, he was an ardent sportsman and participated and excelled in many sports during his school years. His foot did prevent him from realizing his dream of joining the Royal Navy. Caesar sailed for Canada in 1883 at the age of 18 in search of his fortune in gold or, at least, adventure.

His first adventure was homesteading in Manitoba — building a sod hut, digging a well and planting crops. It was not a successful venture and he left it to his friend, T. F. Valentine. Then he moved to Vancouver where he worked at a number of varied jobs until he contracted rheumatic fever and moved to the Okanagan on the advice of his doctor. He moved to Vernon and then pre-empted a piece of land on the west side of Okanagan Lake that became known as Caesar's Landing. His friend Valentine couldn't make a living on the Manitoba homestead and he came to join Northcote in a number of business ventures including cutting cordwood for the paddlewheelers, and using the boat that they built to haul ore & dynamite, tow logs and ferry the Kelowna cricket team around.

By 1899, Caesar and Valentine decided to split up their assets and Caesar bought shares in a mine in the Big Bend area where he ran a hydraulic mining operation. [The Museum has some excellent pictures of this operation, taken on glass plates] He used his profits from the mine to pay off the mortgage on the Rainbow Ranche that he then sold to his tenant, Mr. Pow. He reserved 18 acres on the south end of the Ranche that he called Sundial. Meanwhile, he married Miss Rosalie Mabel Comyn Ching.

Miss Ching came from an old Cornish family and they were married in 1905 in Winnipeg where her brother was a minister. They returned to the Okanagan and had one child, Winifred (Bernau).

The Caesars farmed their 18 acres and Northcote speculated in land in Winfield and Okanagan Centre. In 1907, he bought 13 of the 25-foot lots in Okanagan Centre. He built the elegant Grandview Hotel [where the Museum sits today] and rented it out. The Hotel burned down in 1919.

Northcote Caesar never did become rich but he and his family lived reasonably comfortably. He spent the last twenty years of his life as an invalid in his home at Sundial. He died at age 92 in 1957.

Source: "Northcote Caesar: Story of a Life." *Reports of Okanagan Historical Society*.





1955 Northcote Caesar

1899 – Duck Lake School

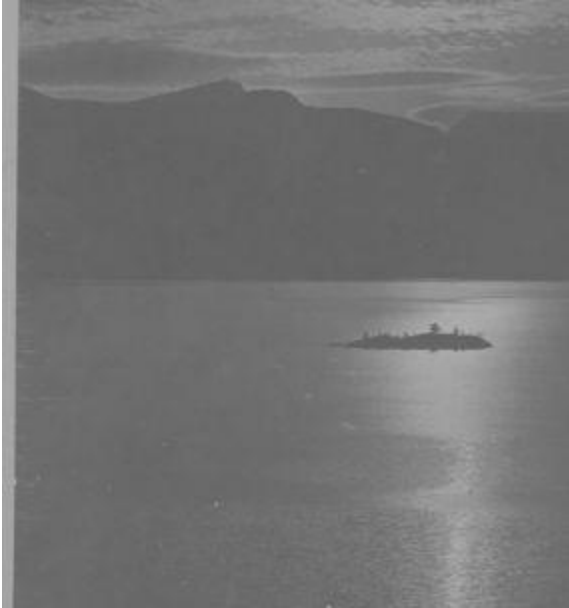
Duck Lake School was the first school in the Winfield area. It was built by volunteer labour and the first teacher was Miss Effie Etheridge. Children from the Sommerville, McClure, Bailey, MacDougall and Simpson families were the first students. The school closed in 1909 because it was not big enough and was in the wrong location.

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

Indigenous name, Grant Island

The island in Okanagan Lake, now know as Grant Island and formerly as Whiskey Island, was called ‘Nahun Weenox’ meaning “child of the mother with a child”. Natives believed that the island broke off from a point on the west side of the lake and floated to the east until it grounded at its present position.

Grant Island is now a bird sanctuary and the only place in the Okanagan that gulls nest and produce young.



1850 - Indigenous Name, Kalamalka Lake

Chilutsus was the native name for Kalamalka Lake. *“This name is pronounced as if spelled Chil-lot-sus as it is indeed sometimes, so written.”*

Source: Tassie, G. C. “Some Place-Names”. *The Tenth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society of Vernon, British Columbia*. Vernon, BC: Okanagan Historical Society, 1943. p. 34.

In the 1930s, the lake was officially recorded as “Long Lake” and in 1953, appeared in the Gazetteer as “Kalamalka Lake”. The name in Polynesian apparently means “the sun of America”. It was believed that a native from the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) who had been recruited in the late 1700s to help establish Fort Astoria in Oregon, had travelled to the North Okanagan. Here he had married an Indigenous woman and named one of their offspring, Kalamalka. The Syilx/Okanagan People claim that the word is a form of “Kenamaska,” the name of a chief who led the people of the lakehead. This word was used to describe the velvet grown on deer horns in the spring.

Source: *The Calendar*, June 5, 1991.

Indigenous Name —Oyama Isthmus

“Axas-lu-chus” is the Indigenous name for the Oyama peninsula. It means “The Peninsula going across”

prior to 1850 - Indigenous Name, Winfield

Aks-Klukem is the Indigenous name for Winfield.

Source: Louis, Shirley. *Q'sapi*.

Okanagan Centre Glacier

Three kilometres south of Okanagan Centre a sequence of glacial and nonglacial sediments ninety-eight metres thick is exposed in a gully on the east side of the road. Fulton and Smith (1978) of the Geological Survey of Canada determined that they represent the last two major glacial advances (25,000 and 50,000 years ago) separated by a non-glacial interval, and an older Interglacial interval (100,000 years ago).

The deposit that is laid down directly when glacier ice melts is called till. The till of the Okanagan Centre Glaciation is underlain by a series of glacial lake deposits, sand, gravel of glacial and fluvial origin and beach deposits referred to as the Westwold Sediments. Fossils recovered from these deposits at Westwold, B. C., include plant fragments, mollusk shells, bison bones, fish, beetles, and rodents suggesting a warm climate during a 100,000 year old Interglacial period in the Okanagan.

The till of the Okanagan Centre Glaciation is overlain by another series of sediments representing a regional period of nonglacial activity referred to as the Olympia Nonglacial Interval. These sediments were formed in many valleys after the ice of the Okanagan Centre Glaciation had melted. They are known as the Bessette Sediments and are exposed in Bessette Creek near Lumby where they are 22 metres thick and consist of interbedded fluvial gravel, sand and silt containing plant remains and at least two layers of volcanic ash. These deposits are overlain by till and sediment related to the most recent Cordilleran claciation called the Fraser Glaciation.

Source: Roed, M.A. *Geology of the Kelowna Area and origin of the Okanagan Valley*. Kelowna, BC: Kelowna Geology Committee, 1995. pp. 43-45.

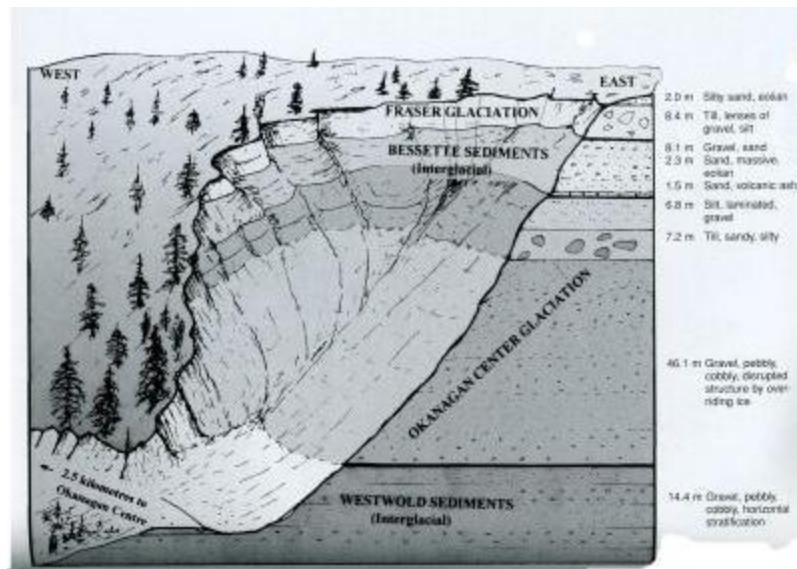


Figure 12: This gully along Okanagan Centre Road exposes one of the best sections revealing the variety of glacial deposits formed in the last

Prior to 1890 - Commonage Road

The Commonage Road was established prior to 1890. The original Commonage route was the main stagecoach route from Priest Valley (Vernon) to Oyama which then switched back over the ridge to the area known as Ocoola Flats (Winfield) and then to its final destination at the Mission in Kelowna.

The Commonage route was one of the earliest trails leading into the area known today as Lake Country — Oyama, Carr's Landing, Winfield and Okanagan Centre. The route took its name from the Commonage grazing area that extended east from Okanagan Lake to Kalamalka Lake, covering an area of about 24,000 acres. At one time this land was reserved from pre-emption, to be enjoyed by the First Nations and the white settlers for their continuous and common use as pastureland, hence the name Commonage.

The original agreement was dated May 18, 1876. In 1889 a new agreement was reached wherein the government would take over the Commonage in return for the establishment of an Indian Reserve on the north-west side of Okanagan Lake. The Commonage was put up for sale and after that, opened for pre-emption.

Commonage Road today is still, in some areas, unpaved, for example, from Carr's Landing Road for approximately 2 kilometres. It is paved up until Charolaise Drive and then unpaved until it meets the entrance to Predator Ridge.

In the last decade, the Commonage has seen an increase in traffic due to the growth in the area and whenever the main highway between Winfield and Vernon is closed due to accidents or for repair. Some of the larger trucks find the route difficult because of the long hills and the narrowing of the road in the unpaved areas.

Source: Norris, L. "Some Place Names." *Second Annual Report of the Okanagan Historical and Natural History Society*. Vernon, BC: *OHNHS*, 1927. p. 35; Harvey, A. G. "Okanagan Place Names. Their Origin and Meaning." *The Twelfth Report of the Okanagan Historical Society*. Vernon, BC: *OHS*, 1948. p. 201; Penny Baughen in *The Calendar*, June 9, 1991; *The Calendar*, June 12, 1991.