

VALLEY HISTORY AND THE WINDERMERE VALLEY MUSEUM

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The Broadfoot Clan of the Columbia Valley

It was 1928 when David Smart Broadfoot got off the C.P.R. train at Golden Station and looked south down the Columbia Valley for the first time. It was a view to fire his heart and he felt like he was coming home. This land looked good to him and he was a man who had travelled a lot. He had seen many different places but none had touched his heart like this Valley. He knew he was going to settle somewhere in this area, he just had to decide exactly where.

He was born on October 1, 1908 in the city of Glasgow, in the "Suppressed District of Anderson", Scotland. Young Davy had left his home in 1922 when he was thirteen years old. Maybe if he hadn't been so stubborn, his life would have turned out much different. There were several opportunities open to David at the time and he could have made a good life for himself in Scotland. David's father was a Journeyman Letterpress Printer and his family was comfortably settled in Glasgow. The name "Broadfoot" could be found all over south Scotland and into the Borderlands and Northern England. David's own family had been in Glasgow for generations and the name Broadfoot is Celtic in origin, rather than Scottish, and so that puts the "Dalraidan" *Brad-futes* on Albion's fair soil centuries before the Scots arrived from Macedonia via Spain.

When Davey was down at the Glasgow docks

he got the idea to stow-away on one of those big freighters and just let it take him where it may. It was early spring and Davey had no problem finding a ship. He finally decided that Canada or the United States would be best because they had more English speaking people and the tropical empires seemed too hot and poor to him.

Davey finally settled on a fine looking ship that was registered out of Bristol and sailing for Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He sauntered on board just as the last of the hatches was being sealed. Nobody paid any attention to the grubby little Scot carrying his tiny bag containing a few meager possessions. For his part, he acted like he didn't care and everyone thought he was a new crew member. By evening the freighter was clear of the docks and making her way through the myriad vessels anchored in the roads. The steady hum of the engines put Davey to sleep and nobody noticed him hiding in his little den.

When the ship *still* wasn't in Canada by the second day of sailing Davey thought he would starve to death if he didn't eat soon. When he ventured out to find some food, the crew caught him and brought him before the Captain. They were several hundred miles to sea by then and the Captain had no intention of returning for one little stow-away. He put Davey to work to earn his way.

When the ship arrived in Halifax the captain was going to keep Davey locked up so he could be returned to his family in Scotland, (and worked just as hard on the return voyage, nae doubt!), but Davey convinced him that he had no intention to stay in that foreign land and that he looked forward to sailing back to Scotland and working on the ship again. The Captain believed him, or at least took pity on him and let him go ashore with a few of the hands. They were supposed to be watching the lad, and when

one of them sent him on an errand, Davey went the other direction and wasn't missed by his chaperones. He was determined to stay hidden for three days until the ship sailed back to Glasgow.

But now he was broke and alone on the streets of a foreign city. Davey realized that he was still a thirteen-year-old boy and he was feeling desperate and frightened. When some local toughs started to harass him, he lost his temper and beat a few of them senseless.....And that was how David Smart Broadfoot first earned his living in Canada; bare-fist boxing on the streets of Halifax.

It was a terrible way to earn his keep and by autumn Davey had had enough and he was on the move looking for other opportunities. He left Halifax and headed west, intent on reaching Canada's western provinces. The traveling was slow because he had to work all along the way to buy food and acquire funds. Five years and five thousand miles later, he got off the train in Golden, B.C. The year was 1928.

Dave met a man from the Kootenay Valley who was working north of Golden in the Big Bend area of the Columbia River. This guy had told him that there was plenty of work around the Invermere area. Maybe he could get on with an outfitter or a rancher or even up at the Paradise mine in the Purcell Mountains west of Wilmer.

The local man that befriended Dave was Gordon Nixon. Gordon's father was Walter James Nixon and he had been guiding in the Kootenays for many years. If he couldn't employ Dave, he would certainly know where to send him.

So, in 1928 Dave Broadfoot met Walter Nixon and went to work for him on his ranch at Wilmer. While there, he inevitably met Walter and Esther Nixon's daughter, Susan. They married in 1932 and moved into a house in Invermere. They were able to buy some property from the Invermere Contracting Company, which Howard Cleland owned. They paid \$15.00 per lot and they bought three lots along 10th Ave.

Dave worked at Ronacher's mill at the time. He built a two story clapboard house on two of the lots and sold the third to Dr. Coy. (Presently it is the large lot and apartment building on the corner of 10th Ave. and 9th St.) It was there that all of their nine children were raised.

Stanley Leroy (Roy) - January 16,1930
Margaret- November 3, 1932
Walter James (Jim)- March 3, 1934
Esther- July 19,1936
David Hugh (Huey)- October 1,1937
Filmore Thomas (Tom)- Nov. 11, 1939
William Douglas (Doug)- Oct. 26,1941
Susan- February 24,1943
John Smart (Jack)- Nov. 13,1945

In the late 30's Dave was working on a "Relief Gang" in Kootenay National Park, scaling rocks along the Banff-Windermere Highway when he was struck in the head by falling stones. His skull was fractured. Infection set in and moved down to the inner ear. He always had problems with headaches after that and he never did heal properly. On January 19,1946, Dave lost his life to a tumor on the brain.

Times were tough on the Broadfoot family for a few years after Dave died until the older children could work and earn some cash to contribute to the families sustenance.

Susan married again on November 20, 1948 to Carl Pearson and they had one daughter, Carolyn, born on February 2,1952.

All of the children grew strong and healthy and married and began families of their own, but that would be another ten stories! And so began a dynasty.

(full version in the museum archives.)

Jim Broadfoot Remembers-1940

Roy and I were walking home from school one day and we met up with Henry Lim. Henry had a bag of candyHenry always had candy, his parents owned a store in Athalmer..... So, Roy asks him for a piece of candy.

Henry says " No, you can't have any because you asked and that's rude."

"What about Jim?" Roy shot back. "He didn't ask for any."

"He doesn't want any or he would have asked!" Henry answered.

I don't know what happened after that, whether anybody got a piece of candy or maybe the Broadfoot boys got it all!!

(Gordon James Broadfoot- 2002)

MUSIC TEACHERS

In Windermere, Mrs. Smythe, wife of the Anglican Minister taught music. Mrs.

W.W.Taynton also taught there. Miss Gladys Pitts was a pupil.

1925– A group of people fled from Russia during the Revolution . They stayed in the old Windsor Hotel in Athalmer until they settled and purchased land. The group included the Diemetrof, Levhine and Wormsbecker families. Madame Levhine was an accomplished pianist and gave music lessons. They lived in the McKay House in Athalmer and Madame Levhine gave a concert in the old hall in Athalmer. One of her pupils was Miss Kathleen Sims.

Mrs. Lehmann was also an accomplished musician and gave lessons.

Miss Kathleen Sims became an accomplished pianist and gave lessons also. She married Mr. Dunne and continued instructing until they moved from the Valley during the 1930's. During the 1920's, Dr. William Raven and Mrs. Raven lived in Invermere. Dr. Raven was a distinguished musician who made several world tours as a conductor and violin soloist. Mrs. Raven was an accomplished musician and accompanist for her husband. Dr. Raven taught violin and Mrs. Raven taught singing and dancing. The Ravens returned to Invermere after W. W. II. He had been absent during the War and during that time had raised thousands of dollars for European refugees and the rehabilitation of Coventry Cathedral in England. They continued to teach.

Mrs. Raven and Mrs. Jessie Blakley were sisters. The Ravens were Madge (Mrs. Oswald) Young's parents.

1949-50– Mr. and Mrs. Paprocke and family moved from Winnipeg to Edgewater. Daughter Wanda had her musical training and at the age of 13 was teaching piano and violin. She also arranged concerts at the "Columbia Studios" in Winnipeg.

In 1950, Wanda joined her parents at Edgewater and in 1952-53 started giving lessons in piano

and violin. In Edgewater, she taught at the Community Hall. In Invermere she went to the students homes. For ten years she was in charge of music at the Edgewater School. She has been generous with her talent from 1952 playing for numerous musicals and concerts. Her violin solos have been enjoyed on many occasions. Sophie Paprocke, sister of Wanda, taught Tap Dance at the "Columbia Studios" in Winnipeg. In 1952 she gave lessons in Tap at the Edgewater and Invermere Community centers. She continued to teach dancing until she moved to Vancouver.

(*Museum Files*)

May 1st, 1925– Interview with Martin Morigeau. (*B.G. Hamilton Files.*)

Martin Morigeau, the son of Baptiste Morigeau, born on the east side of Windermere Lake in June 1888 in a conversation with me today said that he had heard his Grandfather and other old Indians of the Kootenay Tribe say that there used to be a species of animal that looked like a hairy man, whom they called a "Gorilla." There were some of these "creatures" in the Kootenay Country and they were attracted by the voices of the women as they shrilly lamented over their dead. They would watch the women and find out where the person was buried, then when all was quiet, they would go and dig up the body. He said that the Indians fought with them and according to Moise Tatley, a very old man, the last one was killed in a fight near where is now the townsite of Athalmer.

From the Journal of Hope Brewer

1894 - The first school in Windermere was in the log building overlooking the lake. The teacher's name was Miss Mary K. Smith (Hot Water Mary). The log building is still standing in January 1954. (still standing in 2002). I have

a Bible that the teacher gave me with her name in it and dated February 1895, when she went away. Miss Gibbons was our next teacher.

1895- The children at the school were- Frank Morigeau, Martin Morigeau, Ed Morigeau, Louise Morigeau, Rose Morigeau, Marcilene Morigeau , Louie Kie, Hope Brewer, Daisy Tegart, Rose Kinbasket and Lou Kwong.

1906- Jack Taynton was the first Game Warden in the Valley.

1912- Everet Bogardus was the 2nd Game Warden.

1914- Al Cochrane was the 3rd Game Warden .A position he held until his death.

Winter weather at Marble Canyon

April 21,1933- four feet of snow on the ground

April 25,1933- snowed 16 inches.

Money made in 1939-

Sorting beer Bottles- .25

Haying for A. Fuller & Hauling- 1 day- 2.00

Helping W. Jones haul pipe- 2 days- 5.00

Flunkying for the Government- 13 days- 15.96

Cutting Trees- 35.00

Sale of Rifle- 20.00

Fur- 8.00

Working for the C.V.I.- 22.40

Bounty on 2 coyotes- 4.00 .

An Old-timer's Reunion was held in the Windermere Hotel August 24,1953. Wm. McNeil, W. Stoddart, V. Kimpton, Mrs. Wm. McNeil, J. Blakley, and Hope Brewer attended.

Justice David J. Brewer, Supreme Court, whose name appeared in “ True West” February 1957 was my Father’s brother (Sam Brewer).Other men that my father knew were George Maledon, the Hangman and Judge Isaac Charles Parker.

Movies made in the Valley

Snowblind - April 1923

Starred Lionel Barrymore and Seena Owen

Director E.W. Griffiths

International Film Company

Filmed at Lake Lillian, Castle Rock, Toby Creek (Hot punch Cabin) and the Paradise Basin.

Conrad Kain doubled for Seena Owen in a glacier scene when he had to slide down the glacier. He charged the motion picture company an extra 25 cents for the loss of his moustache. Conrad Kain also helped the film company to find an old cabin for burning. He found one on Toby Creek. They burnt it but the pictures did not turn out so they had to purchase one in Windermere to burn. Kain found this to be very extravagant.

The filming took place on the Paradise Plateau in the late winter. Walter Nixon was hired to pack in supplies as was Charlie Crook. The dog teams were used throughout the movie. The well groomed dogs belonged to the “good guys” and the scruffier ones belonged to the “bad guys.”

The Choice- Filmed in 1960 by Chetwynd Films Co.

Director Robert Barclay

Producer Arthur Chetwynd

Actor Robert Clothier, (better known as “Relic” on the Beachcombers) . Filmed at Lake Lillian and at Weir’s Lake Windermere Lodge. This film was made for the Cancer Society.


