

VALLEY HISTORY

AND THE WINDERMERE VALLEY MUSEUM

BOX 2315, INVERMERE, V0A 1K0 342-9769 FEBRUARY 2006



**ARTHUR H. AND MARY LOUISA
TEGART 1900**

Arthur H. Tegart first visited the Valley in 1887, then he went prospecting in the Yukon. He married Mary Louisa Brown in the Caribou, in 1895. Their first son, Lloyd was born in Victoria, and Thomas , their second son died in infancy.

In 1898 he returned to the Valley and homesteaded a 1/2 section (320 acres) 4 miles south of Windermere and established the **Alpine Ranch**. Water License from Windermere Creek was obtained. To help establish the ranch, Arthur raw-hided copper from the Swansea Mine. The family lived in a log cabin near the creek.

Arthur and Mary had 13 children - Lloyd, Thomas , Robert, Hazel , George, Emily, Hiram (Bust-

er) , Ivy, Marjorie, James, Albert, Alice , and Montgomery (Monty) .

By **1903**, the Alpine Ranch was well established with 12 milk cows, 300 Hereford cattle, pigs, poultry, a large vegetable garden and hay fields under cultivation. The Tegart men's livelihoods have been connected with cattle and horses for many years. Riding horses, pack horses, work horses, carriage horses and race horses. In 1911 they had a pure-bred stallion, Prince Albert, that they shared with the Fortress Ranch in Brisco.

In **1904** a new home was built with a kitchen, parlor and bedroom downstairs and 3 bedrooms upstairs. Mrs. Mary Louisa Tegart was glad of that. A tiny woman but of great strength, she looked after a large vegetable garden, doing all the canning. She made her own yeast from hops grown on the ranch and baked 10 loaves of bread twice a week. She churned her own butter and cheese, picked up pin money by supplying the road camps with milk, butter, cheese and eggs. Water from the creek, 3 large barrels at a time, was supplied to the house. Saturday night was bath night, as the whole family attended church in the Presbyterian Church in Windermere on Sundays.

The Ranch, situated on the main

road (or trail) from Windermere south to Fairmont had lots of visitors. No one passed by without stopping for refreshments, a rest and a visit. They were all welcomed. Mary Louisa enjoyed the ladies and they always found Mary knitting , sewing or baking. Arthur showed the men around the ranch as they exchanged the news.

Over the years the Tegarts' sons moved off the ranch to jobs on other ranches, to do rodeo work, and to do packing and guiding jobs . The girls married and the ranch prospered and grew. Arthur Tegart regularly freighted groceries between Golden and Windermere with 2 stops, one at Castledale and one at Shorty Atchison's at Brisco. He was also the engineer behind the first road into Fairmont Hot Springs, using a team of horses, a grader slip and plow.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Tegart were active members and supporters of community organizations and events. Arthur died in 1925. Prior to his death, he transferred the Alpine Ranch to their son, Robert Walker Tegart. Mary Louisa took the children and moved to Brisco to live on Anne (Tegart) Mitchell's place. (Anne was a sister to Arthur . She taught school in Windermere before her marriage to Alfred Mitchell of Brisco.) Mary Louisa died there in 1931. Many Tegart descendents live in the Valley today.

(by Alice Tegart 2005)

Golden Star—March 1945

Flying Officer Monty Tegart of the RCAF, has returned to Canada after

completing a tour of service over Germany during W.W.II.

Lumbering continues to be the principal feature industrially in the district . A new mill operated by Wilder Bros. is starting in the neighborhood of K2 Ranch and Futa Bros. have also built a new mill.

Simon Ronacher's mills are working steadily with a daily output of 50,000 feet of lumber and 500 to 600 ties. A new 150 hp steam engine is being installed at the planer which will re-open as soon as installation is complete. Foyston and Sons has added a Chrysler industrial unit to their plant in operation on the Benches. Elliott Bros. have purchased a new mill and power unit. Wenger's Mill is working steadily in the Steamboat Mountain area and E.E. Trethewey is operating at Radium. Tegart's south of Windermere and Joe Kirsch near Goldie Creek are still in operation.

MISS BODECKER

In 1912, Miss Dora K. Bodecker, with her mother, came from England and settled on a 40 acre lot on Toby Benches. Shortly afterwards they moved to Invermere and Miss Bodecker became the Village Music Teacher. She also walked to Wilmer and traveled to Windermere to give lessons.

Her musical education included a year's study in France and some months in Germany. She was well qualified to teach to "Toronto Conservatory" school of music. An examiner came annually to conduct special examinations. Certificates of the

Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Collage of Music both of London were awarded to the successful students. At an afternoon fete, July 1917, those that won the certificates

were: Miss Dorothy Turner

May Starke

Helen Spencer

Irene Corby

Jack Oldham

Marion McKay

Amanda Frazer-Crierie

Arthur Peake

Mary Turner

Florence Clark

Dorothy McKay

R.R. Bruce presented the awards.

Those fetes were annual events at Miss Bodecker's home. She also entertained at a recital when each pupil of every class performed for their parents and guests.

Miss Bodecker taught music during the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's. She was musical director of a concert program planned by Miss Sarah McPherson, teacher of the Invermere School in 1913-14. It was titled "The Mother Goose Convention".

She organized a musical group known as "The Tommy Tuckers" who met to sing for their supper every Tuesday evening.

Christ Church, Anglican, Invermere was built and the first service was September 9, 1923. Miss Bodecker was organist, a post she held for many years. She was also a Sunday School teacher in 1914-15 in the Invermere School House.

Miss Bodecker also instituted the first Girl Guide Company and Brownies in 1922. She died in 1961. Some

of her special church music is still used.

**East Kootenay Drama Festival
by the Lake Windermere Players,
April 1960
"Permanent"**

Presented by the David Thompson High School Junior Drama Class . Directed by Sonja Sleik under the supervision of Dorothy Worsley, Drama Teacher.

Stage Director- Marion Tegart.

Properties- Sigrid Sattmann

Prompter- Doreen Kellough

Cast- Betty VanDriel, Zella Slaton, Rosemarie Hefti, Dianna Wynder, Annette LaGrandeur, Wynanne Ede, Sharon Johnson and Donna Hickson.

"Before the Flood"

Presented by the Lake Windermere Players.

Director- Justine Harris

Prompter- Mary Anne McKenzie

Cast- Elsie Dobbie, Mary Bowen, Phil Staniland, Tony Rogers, Bob Wark, Dorothy Worsley, Isabel Kimmitt, Donald Elliott, Danny Mackill and Winn Fleetham.

(Museum Files)

1960

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INVERMERE, B.C.

MORE HISTORY:

1956- The Historical Society has functioned since 1956. First as a committee under the Windermere District Board of Trade, with an historical library in the Village Office. Two years later, it became a separate organization known as the Windermere District Historical Society (1958.)

1964 - First Museum

A 14x23 foot log cabin (built by Charles Crook) was purchased from the Kootenay National Park. It was placed on the Park site close to the business section of the Village. (South end of Pothole Park.) It was officially opened in 1965.

1970-The second building purchased was the former "Little Legion Building." It was purchased from the School Board. It was moved from its original site (across from the old High School) to the Village Park Site and placed beside the log cabin.

1975-A third building was acquired. A "Save the Station Fund" made it possible to move the C.P.R. station from its site in Athalmer to its new home at the top of the hill in Invermere.

A three building museum complex was completed with the moving of the first two buildings to the new site.

1981-A fourth building was acquired. The original Brisco School was donated to the Society by the Mitchell Family of Brisco.

1985- A fifth building The Jim Dilworth Mining Cabin was acquired. It was saved from demolition as it was in the way of the C.P.R. overpass.

1986- the Notary Public building was moved to the site with funding provided by lawyers from Calgary.

1987- The 7th building was the Implement Shed which was built on site.

2002- The 8th building was the Blakley Cabin donated by Herb and Buffy Blakley.

SOPHIE MORIGEAU

A sister of Baptiste Morigeau and one of the most remarkable and best known of Francois' children. This was Sophie. She settled in the Tobacco Plains area about 1880. Sophie, scorning the servile life expected of an Indian woman, initiated her own enterprise. Undismayed that no woman, either white or native had done such a thing before, she assembled a pack string and ran trade goods from Missoula, Montana and Walla Walla, Washington to Ft. Steele, doing business with both whites and natives.

Later, while the CPR was under construction, she expanded to bootlegging and spent a good deal of her time in Canada. She also ran a store at her place on Tobacco Plains for a considerable time, again doing business with both natives and whites. She always claimed to be a white woman although she was very good to the Indians and usually had quite a number around her.

She was a person of considerable energy and for a time had three parties out prospecting for mines and she possessed a good herd of cattle . In later years she fell on hard times . She died in October 1916.

(We have a video on Sophie Morigeau in our Museum files if anyone is interested in learning more.)

(Museum Files)

A big Thank-you to those that renewed their membership and to those that added generous donations. To those that haven't renewed, it's not too late.

(Compiled by Sandy McKay)