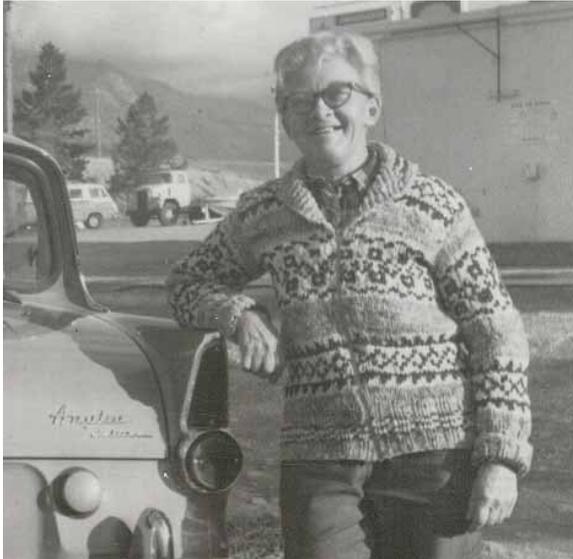


VALLEY HISTORY AND THE WINDERMERE VALLEY MUSEUM BOX 2315, INVERMERE, V0A IK0 342-9769 FEBRUARY 2004



MADELINE TURNOR

The Dr.P.W. Turnor family sailed from Liverpool, England, May 19, 1911 on board the C.P.R. ship, the "Empress of Ireland", disembarking at Quebec City. They came across Canada on the train, arriving at Golden City on June 1. They came up the valley on the riverboat, "Klahowya" and spent the first night in this valley at the Windermere Hotel.

Thus began an interesting and adventurous life in Canada for a 12 year old girl ! Madeline's father, Dr. Philip Turnor was a retired MD. Her mother was an accomplished pianist and very artistic. Effie, her sister, was 9 years old and Gerald was 4 1/2 .

Land was purchased on the benches and a cottage was built there. They lived in a bunkhouse in Wilmer until their house was ready in November of 1911. The chimney wasn't finished so the stove pipe was stuck out a window. Water was hauled from Lake Lillian twice a week , a distance of three miles. It was stored in 2 barrels inside the kitchen door. The winter was spent cutting wood for the heater and cook-stove.

Madeline loved the outdoor life and was a willing helper on the family farm and on the farm of Capt. and Mrs. MacCarthy who were neighbors of the Turnors. It was while working at the MacCarthys that Madeline was introduced to her life-long love of horses, trail rides, mountain climbing and hunting and guiding.

Dr. Turnor found farming very hard work, not being accustomed to it and when the local doctor left for war duty, Dr. Turnor began a medical practice in Invermere. The Turnor farm was exchanged with the MacCarthys for their house and property in Invermere. They moved their possessions by team and wagon in April 1916. Madeline lived in the home for nearly 70 years when it was destroyed by fire.

From the beginning, Madeline loved life in Canada. She loved the mountains and the outdoor life.

Beginning in 1913, the MacCarthys introduced her to hiking, climbing and trail riding. Madeline was thrilled when in 1918, Mrs. MacCarthy made her a life member of the Alpine Club of Canada.

In 1916, Madeline made her first trip by pack train up Jumbo and Toby Creeks. She went with Mrs. MacCarthy to help with cooking and other chores. The guide was Bill Williams and the mountain guide was Conrad Kain. They climbed Mt. Nelson and several peaks up the north fork of Toby Creek. At the end of the trip they stayed at the Earl Grey cabin which had been built a few years before.

In 1921, Madeline began working for Walter Nixon leading trail rides from the C.P.R. camp on Lake Windermere. It was this year that Mrs. MacCarthy gave Madeline her beloved horse, Raven.

In 1922, with Walter Nixon, Madeline took a pack trip to mark the last one over the Banff Windermere Highway before it opened.

The summer of 1926 found Madeline working at Major Prusts and it was while on hunting and fishing trips with this family that she met Elmore Staples.

Madeline began work at the Staples' "S Half Diamond Ranch" at Premier Lake. She helped trail the eighty head of horses to be used at the Girls' Camp. Her job was to organize and take out daily trail rides and picnic rides, as well as four day pack trips for the senior girls. They rode to White Swan Lake which was before roads and was a 9 hour ride from Premier Lake.

In 1930, Madeline was still at

Premier Lake but this was the last year of the Girls' Camp as the ranch became a Dude Ranch catering to families. Madeline worked for the next ten years as corral boss, cleaning cabins, gardening, cutting lawns, cooking on hunting and pack trips and closing the lodge for the winter.

In 1936, Madeline was invited by some American friends to join them on a month's cruise up the Alaska coast on a private yacht with two guides for bear hunting and fishing. With WWII, came many changes to the Valley and manpower was short. Madeline continued to work at the ranch helping with chores and cooking for the gang. During the War years Madeline did gardening and cared for the horses, cows and poultry.

"In 1943 I opened the Ranch. I did the garden, milked the cows and raised 500 baby chicks. Riding days and corral work were a thing of the past. This winter was spent at the ranch feeding cattle, horses, poultry and my 101 cats."

"In 1950, I took my Mother with me to the ranch from April to October. During these years I had become chief cook and did all the meal planning, ordering of supplies, bottling of fruit, and making of jams and pickles. For 6 years this continued until it was not suitable for Mother in any way. After 30 years, it all came to an end and I moved to Invermere to care for my Mother."

(Turnor Files)

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**45TH ANNUAL
FALL FAIR, AUGUST 24-25,
1956**

President—R. B. Harris
Vice-President— Mr. G. Rad
Recording Secretary and Acting
Treasurer— Mrs. G. Annis
Corresponding Secretary—Mr. O.T.
(Torry) Fuller .

Directors— added to the existing
directors were: Miss Dorothy Bar-
bour, Mrs. Geo. Annis, Mrs. Hal
Bavin, and Mrs. A. Schmidt. There
were 22 directors.

Stewards: Livestock— George Ren-
nenkampf

Poultry and Pets— Thomas Cameron

Fruit— Mrs. H. Bavin

Forage Crops— K.M.Marples

Seed Potatoes— F.R. Coy

Vegetables— Joe Taylor

Flowers— C.E.Osterloh

Hobbies, Art, Crafts— Mrs. J.
Blakley

Junior Needlework— Mrs. A.E. Port-
man

Home cooking— Mrs. O.T.(Judy)
Fuller

Schoolwork— Father Agnellus

From the files of B.G. Hamilton:

Invermere— November 23, 1923.

I had a conversation with Mr. Mal-
colm Cameron this morning, who
for many years has lived in the dis-
trict of East Kootenay and who is at
present, residing on the western
bank of the Columbia River just
near the mouth of the
Spillimacheen. Mr. Cameron told
me that he was born in the Province

of Ontario. And that he came to
Winnipeg in 1880, then to Golden
City in 1883. He went on to say that
he had spent some time freighting
on the Columbia River, taking pota-
toes by row boat from the Winder-
mere District where they were
grown to the station at Donald on
the main line of the C.P.Railway
and taking back freight from there.
He said they could convey 2500 lbs.
in a boat load. In regard to Sinclair
Hot Springs, Mr. Cameron said that
he together with Charlie Copeland
and Jim Fowler had in the fall of
1888 built the first log cabin at Sin-
clair Springs. Also, that winter , he
had spent two months in the cabin
with his partners. He said he had
heard of the Hot Springs in Sinclair
Pass in the year 1884.

1888- A Swede had been confined
in the jail at Ft. Steele. Being a pow-
erful man , he had broken jail and
escaped. In order to help in the get
away, he stole a horse belonging to
a man named Morton. When the
owner learned of this he gave chase
and V.Hyde Baker, a son of Colonel
James Baker, residing on Joseph's
Prairie, (now Cranbrook) joined
him. They caught up with the
Swede some twenty miles across the
United States boundary. In a tussle
which ensued, the owner was get-
ting the worst of it when Hyde
Baker " tapped" the Swede on his
head with the butt of his revolver
and laid him out. This done, they
trussed him up and brought him
back to the Canadian side and took
him before Mr. Michael Phillips, the
Justice of the Peace.

Some doubt rested in Mr. Phil-

lips mind as to the manner of capture but this was overlooked. Mr. Phillips committed him for trial and the man was sent to Kamloops. Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Rufus Kimpton is reported to have heard of the case and suggested to the prisoner that he should take some action over the alleged kidnapping. Instead, the prisoner again escaped and was not pursued and there the incident ended.

(Museum Files)

“IN JUNE..... 1908, I was cutting out the trail for the Provincial Government leading up Vermillion Creek towards the Kootenay River and on the Alberta boundary. One evening, while making camp at “Mud” or “Dainard Creek” , I came across a plaque on a tree on the west bank of the creek “ John Labow 1874”. Next day I discovered a huge log cache about 6x8x5 splendidly built but showing signs of decay. There was not anything in it or about to identify it and it was pretty well rotted down.”

Invermere, B.C. Dec. 16, 1920.

Walter J. Nixon.

**WANT ADS
FOR SALE
1946 CHEVROLET SEDAN
H AND D, DRIVING VISOR, BACK-
UP LIGHT, ELECTRIC FAN, ANTI-
FREEZE, ETC.
APPLY G.M. CARTWRIGHT,
CANAL FLATS.
PHONE 2 Q**

“The Golden Star”

December 8, 1933

“ St. Andrew’s Night was fittingly observed in traditional style by the Scots of this District at the Invermere Hotel. The big dining room had been cleared and twosome and foursome reels and Strathspeys were danced with great enjoyment to the music of the pipes. The really big event was the “piping in ” of the haggis. Graham Croll, lately out from Nairn, Scotland, headed the procession with the pipes and the haggis was marched around the room borne on the shoulders of four stalwart Scots. Graham Watt, George Watt, Alf Laird and Tommy Weir, with kilts swinging and pipes skirling made even the English present realize that the Thistle “ canna be sat on” with impunity. ”

In response to an article from the Nov.03 News, “Lonely grave up Spring Creek,” Jim Ashworth writes:

“ In 1935 or ‘36, Bud Cleland and I were interested in purchasing a 1925 Model T Ford (with Ruxtall gearing) owned by a Johnny Fiestinger, (commonly known as Johnny Fivefingers) , a prospector who had a gold claim on Toby Creek directly below what was left of a cabin at Spring Creek. In the deal for \$25.00 was his mining claim which we worked a couple of times and retrieved a few flakes of dust. In the times that I have driven by there and walked the ground grouse hunting, I was not aware of a marker or grave-site. However, Johnny did leave the area and his name may “ ring a bell ” leading to identifying the F.F.C. of Kaslo.”

Thanks Jim for the contribution. We appreciate any additions or comments to the Newsletters. Please write to us at the Museum or E-mail :

slmckay@cyberlink.bc.ca

(compiled by Sandy McKay)