



# The Gartrell Family



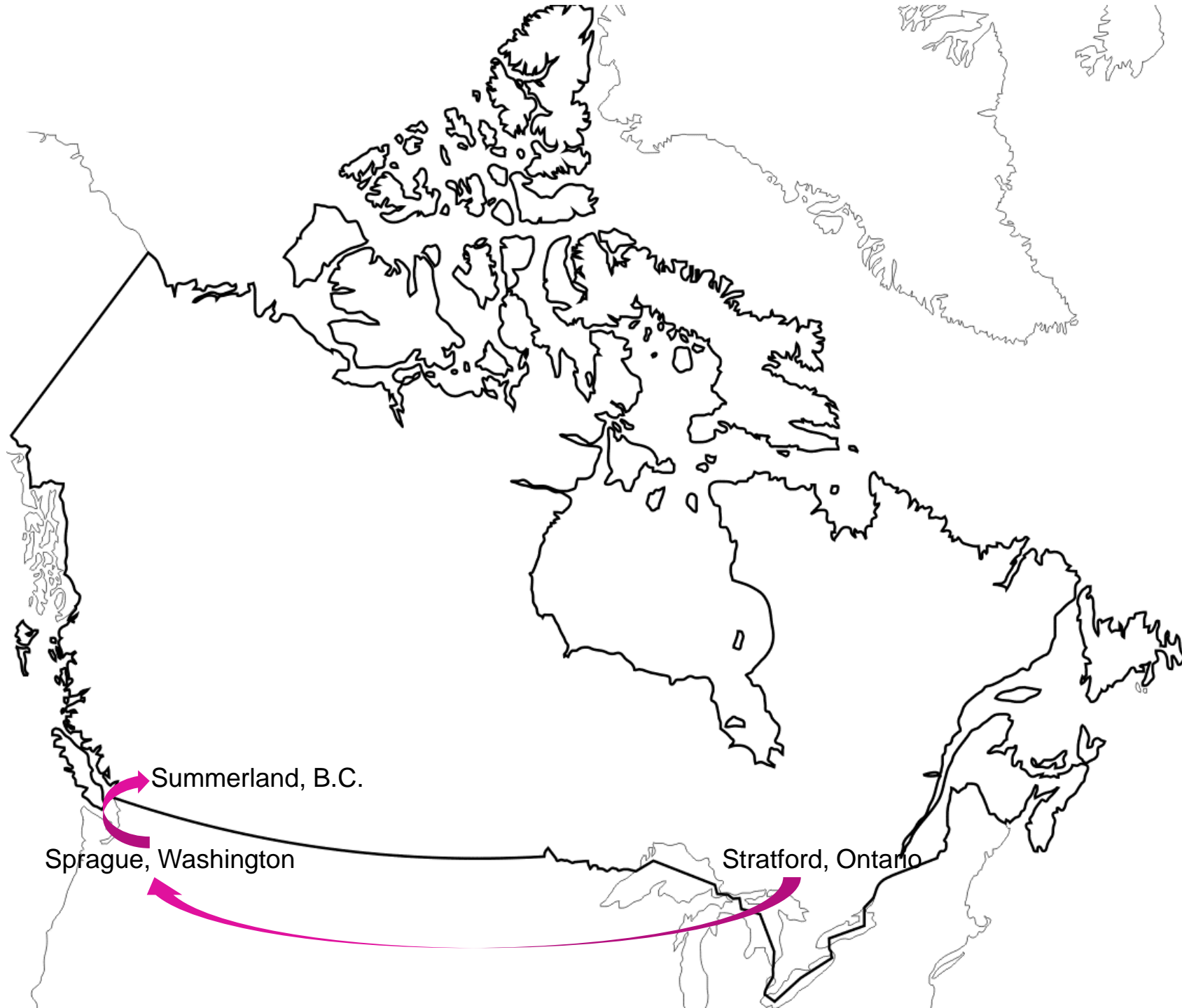


March 7, 1867. A wedding photo of James Gartrell and Mary Pike in Stratford, Ontario.

## Arrival in Summerland

1887: James Gartrell, his wife Mary, and their five children travelled from Stratford, Ontario after hearing about it from Mary's brother.

- Descriptions of the land and rumours of opportunity made moving desirable
- They travelled by railway from Stratford to Sprague, Washington
- Took a covered wagon from Sprague to Penticton, crossing the Columbia River with canoes tied to the wheels so it floated (horses and cattle had to swim)
- They carried apple trees with them for planting



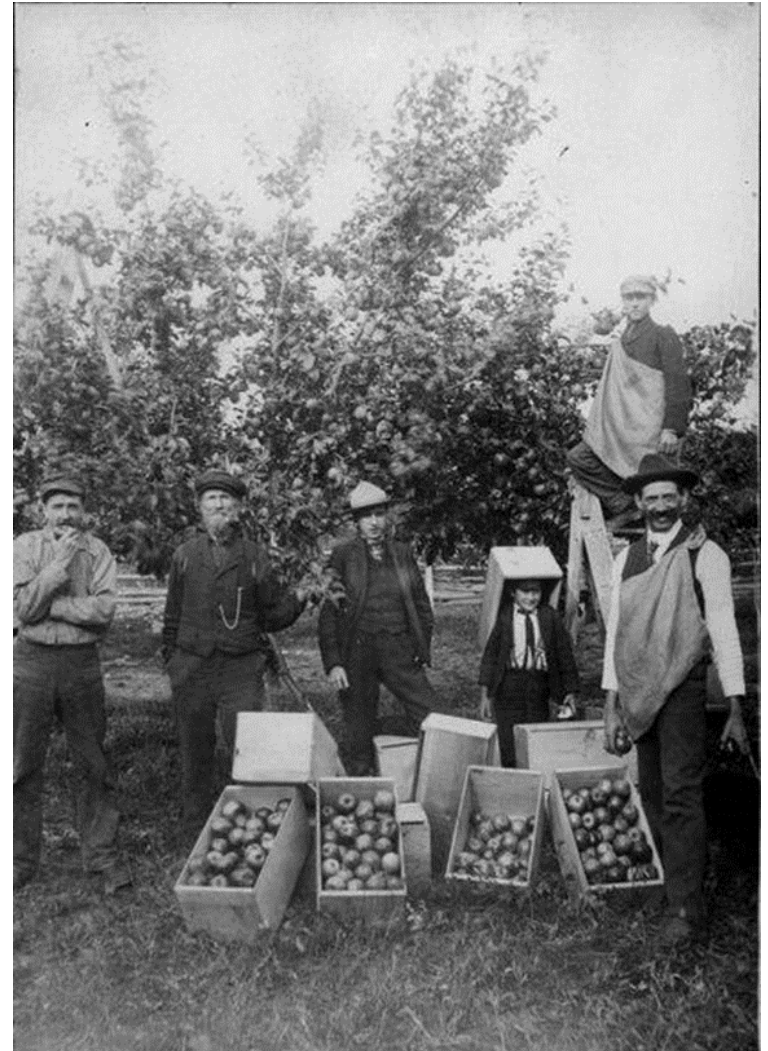
# Upon Arriving

1885: James worked as a foreman on the Ellis Ranch in Penticton, and Mary worked as a cook for the ranch hands.

1887: James and his son claimed the north end of Trout Creek Point and the family moved there.

1890: The Gartrell land claim was made official in 1890.

1892: The Gartrell's established one of the first commercial orchards in the Okanagan. At first, they grew apples starting with the trees they had brought with them. They also grew peaches from stones that came from Okanagan Falls.



1910, orchard workers at the Gartrell Orchard.



# Orchardists



1900. James Gartrell (right), R.H. Agur (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), and others in the Gartrell orchard with boxes of picked apples.



# Farming

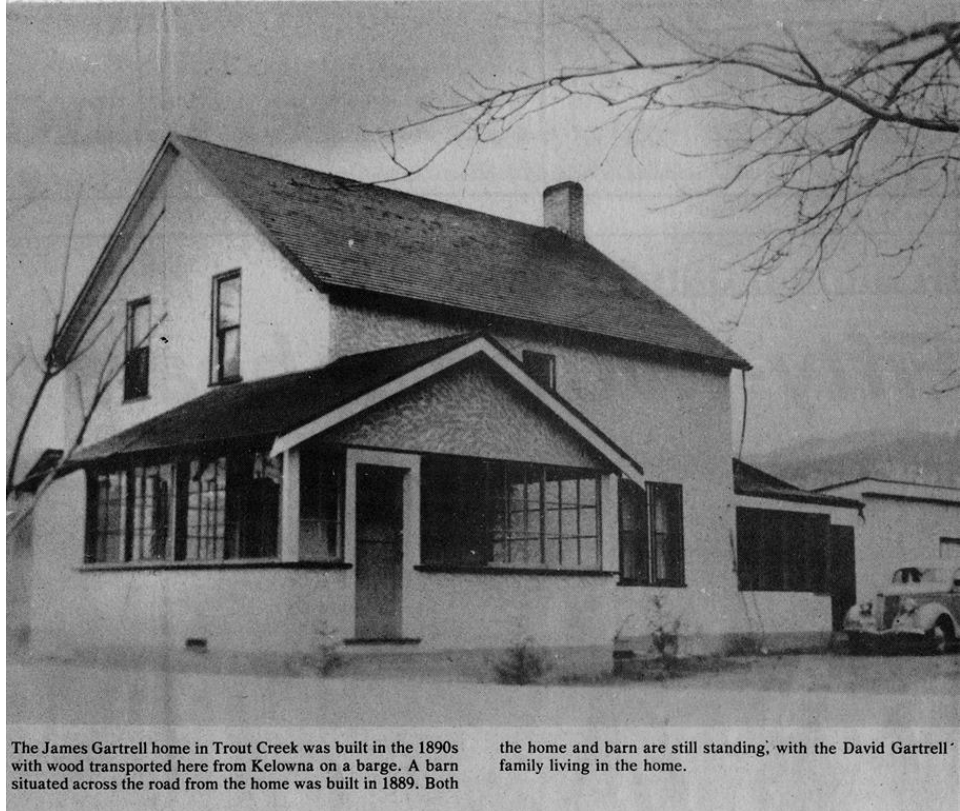


Hauling hay off the Gartrell dairy farm.

# The Gartrell Home

1889: The Gartrells built a log cabin with a sod roof (also called “a soddy”), and it had an earthen (dirt) floor.

1896: They built a new house, which has been lived in by at least five generations of Gartrells.



The James Gartrell home in Trout Creek was built in the 1890s with wood transported here from Kelowna on a barge. A barn situated across the road from the home was built in 1889. Both

the home and barn are still standing, with the David Gartrell family living in the home.



## A Few More Facts

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, Fred Gartrell took his horse and wagon full of fruits and vegetables over very rough roads to places like Camp McKinney, Fairview, and Greenwood.

There was no school in Trout Creek until 1909, so George and Fred Gartrell went to school in Vernon and Kelowna and they stayed with other families.



1900. Fred Gartrell driving his freight wagon to Rock Creek and Granite Mines. He carried supplies and fruit.



1934. Cantaloupe fields under hot caps on Gartrell's farm at Trout Creek Point.



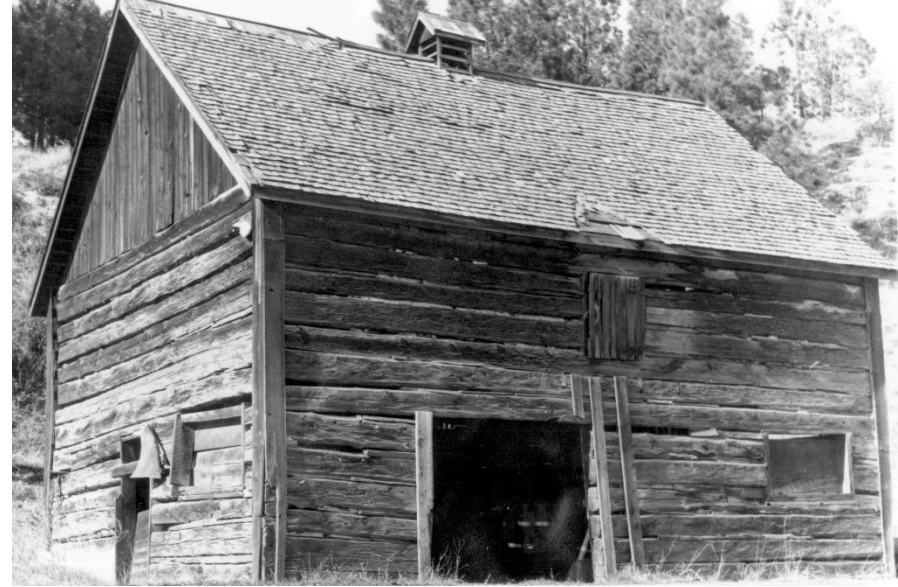
# Contributions to Summerland

- In 1910, the Gartrell post office was opened at Trout Creek Point.
- The family created a friendship with the local First Nations and learned to speak Chinook.
- James Gartrell was the first orchardist to irrigate a fruit orchard in the Okanagan. James Gartrell and Duncan Woods built a rough dam of logs and rocks on Trout Creek to irrigate their crops. The flooding of the creek would water the crops.
- **Started the first commercial orchard in Summerland.**

# Legacy

According to the British Columbia Government site, in 2017 the tree fruit industry in B.C. had about 400 commercial growers who farm approximately 15,000 acres of apples, pears, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, and plums.

Many family members still live in the area.



Gartrell barn built in 1889.



1910. George Gartrell with his family.



# The Gartrell Family

## Questions:

1. When did they arrive here? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How did they get here from Stratford, Ontario?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did Jim bring his family on such a long journey to get here?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

4. After spending two years in Penticton, where did they settle in the area?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Jim was the first person to do what?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What types of fruit did the Gartrells grow ?

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

## Sources:

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