

# THE WOMEN OF SUMMERLAND

FEATURING THE STORIES OF ELIZABETH TAIT VERITY, RUTH ANNE DALE,  
MARY GARTRELL, AND ADELINE CAMPBELL



SUMMERLAND MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



**What was it like for women immigrants?**

# Elizabeth (Lizzy) Tait Verity

**When:** She arrived in 1906.

**Where:** She was from Scotland.

**Why:** She came with her brother, John (Jack) Tait, and her sister, Christina (Chrissy), to join John's brother, Magnus, who was already living here.

**How:** She travelled by boat, train, and sternwheeler.

**Where did she live?** In a tent house.

**What did she do?**

- Married Walter Verity in 1909
- Had a flower and vegetable garden
- An expert at sewing and mending clothes and making hooked rugs
- Mother to daughter Edith



1915. Lizzy Verity holding baby Edith.



# **Elizabeth (Lizzy) Tait Verity**

## **Questions:**

Find the **Kitchen**, **Tent House**, and the **Laundry Display**.

1. What sorts of things to eat could Lizzy buy for her family?

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

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

2. How would she have made butter?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How would she have made ice-cream?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did they use for light? a. \_\_\_\_\_

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

5. How would Lizzy have made her sewing machine sew?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What did they use to wash themselves in? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What do you think Lizzy could have sewn for life in the tent house?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Draw a washing machine that Lizzy would have used in the early 1900s.

# Ruth Anne Dale

**When:** She arrived in 1906.

**Where:** She was from Portage La Prairie.

**Why:** She came as a child with her parents, Tom and Margaret.

**How:** She travelled by train and sternwheeler.

## What did she do?

- Her family had a hay field and cattle ranch in the area now known as Dale Meadows.
- From 1909-1914, she attended Okanagan College in Summerland and then Provincial Normal School where she trained as a teacher.
- Taught in Garnett Valley School and drove there by horse and buggy.
- In 1919, she moved to Central School which became Macdonald Elementary and taught there until 1960.
- In 1953, she was named “Good Citizen” of Summerland.
- Lived until the age of 90, during which time she experienced many changes in the community.



1906, Thomas Dale, Margaret Dale, Ruth Dale (in doorway) and George Dale inside their tent home.



1953. Ruth Dale with Good Citizen trophy.

# Ruth Anne Dale

Questions:

1. Explore the Museum and find some toys she may have played with as a child. **Check the Parlour.** List three.

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

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

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

2. What kinds of games do you think the children played at recess?

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

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

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

3. Are they different from the games you play today?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do you think she was an important immigrant?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



A view of the College buildings from above on Giant's Head; Ritchie Hall and Morton Hall.



1950. Ruth Dale and her mother, Margaret.

# Mary Gartrell

**When:** She arrived in 1885.

**Where:** She was from Stratford, Ontario.

**Why:** For the land opportunity

**What:** She lived in a log cabin with dirt floors

## Difficulties

- She was the only white woman between Penticton and Vernon.
- They had no furniture or implements, so they made their own.
- No running water

## Housekeeping

- Soap from fats, ashes, and lye
- Birch twigs tied together for a broom
- Made own candles from animal fat
- Stuffed mattresses with straw

## Providing

- Grew fruit and vegetables
- Hunted grouse and deer, caught fish
- Harvested wild saskatoon and raspberries
- Cows, chicken, and pig
- Baked bread and pies

\*There were some general stores by 1902.



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

# Mary Gartrell

## Questions:

Find the **Kitchen** display:

1. What would Mary have used to cook on? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How would she have made butter? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When she first arrived, she would have had to carry water from the lake or creek.  
How did she get water in the kitchen display?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Circle which wild animals would have provided food for the Mary and her family:  
grouse, antelope, deer, elephant, fresh fish, kangaroos
5. What kind of domestic (tame) animals would they have had to provide food for her family?  
a. \_\_\_\_\_      b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_

Go to the **Laundry** Display:

6. Explain the steps she took to wash clothes.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_      b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Draw what you think her birch twig broom would have looked like.

# Adeline Campbell

**When:** She arrived in October, 1906.

**Where:** She was from Inverness, Quebec.

**How:** She travelled by train and steamship.

**Why:** She came with her husband, her daughter Florence, and her father-in-law to join James' brothers who had been sent to Summerland in 1905 to find a site for a Baptist College.

**What:** Their first home was a tent topped cabin in Nicola Prairie where the central part of Summerland is now.



1900. Adeline before she married JR Campbell in 1903.

# Adeline Campbell

## Questions:

1. They needed to buy the following items so that they could 'set up house':

stove              Dish pan              tea              kettle              mattresses

**Circle the items** you see in the **tent house** that she would have bought in Summerland or Penticton.

2. What personal items do you think she may have brought to Summerland from Inverness, Quebec?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Now go to the **kitchen display** and write down three things you think she would have had to buy that are not listed above.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Find the **wash day display**. What are three things that Adeline would have had to buy so that she could wash their clothes?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_

## Sources:

Summerland Museum and Archives photo collection: 1994.017.003, 1986.102.001, 1997.227.001, 2013.002.003, 2005.015.001

“Will You Have Cup of Tea?” or “Summerland Grows, 1905-06-07.” Summerland Museum Archivists, p.57-67, 1992.

Okanagan Historical Society. “Okanagan History. Fifty-Second Report of the Okanagan Historical Society.” P. Vernon, B.C. : The Society, 1988. *Original Format: University of British Columbia. Library.*

*Okanagan Historical Society Annual Reports.* Web. 25 Oct. 2017.

<<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/ohs/items/1.0132230>>. Okanagan Historical Society Reports.

Okanagan Historical Society. “Okanagan History. Sixty-Seventh Report of the Okanagan Historical Society.” P. Vernon, B.C. : The Society, 2003. *Original Format: University of British Columbia. Library. Okanagan Historical Society Annual Reports.* Web. 13 Oct. 2017.

<<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/ohs/items/1.0132244>>. Okanagan Historical Society Reports.

“Will You Have Cup of Tea? or “Summerland Grows, 1905-06-07”. Summerland Museum Archivists, p 81-82, 1992

Liz Souder (Orr, Gartrell).

“Okanagan History.” Okanagan Historical Society 28:125-126,148

“Summerland in the Beginning and Pioneers Before 1905.” Summerland Museum Archivist Group, 1984.

“Summerland: In Celebration of 100 years.” Summerland Museum and Heritage Society & Centennial Committee. 2006 p.19-20.

“Will You Have a Cup of Tea?” or “Summerland Grows, 1905-06-07.” Summerland Museum Archivists, p. 49-50, 1992.