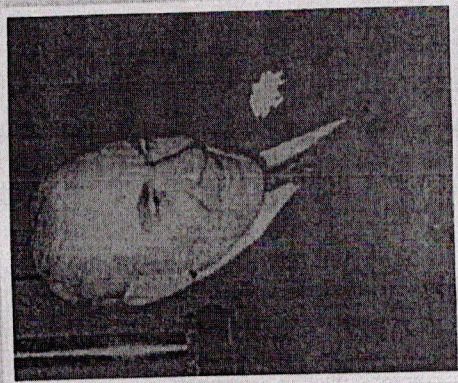


COLLETT ROAD

Lower Mission area – off Lakeshore Road.



Horace Carlisle Spedding
"Shorty" Collett

Horace Carlisle Spedding Collett, known as "Shorty" for his stature of over six feet, immigrated in 1902 to what is now Saskatchewan. In 1903, he arrived in the Okanagan and worked for the Camerons at Guisachan Ranch. He, with his brother Joseph, started Collett Brothers Livery business in Kelowna. Shorty returned to England in 1914 to marry Nancy Locock. Collett Brothers dissolved their partnership, and Shorty then became manager of the Belgo Land Development Company. He later became manager of the Kelowna Land and Orchard Company. When the Kelowna Land and Orchard Ranch was sold, he became real estate manager for the Okanagan Loan and Investment Trust, which had bought out the KLO Company. Shorty Collett was one of the instigators, along with Father O'Grady, Father Mulvihill and L.P. Guichon, in the purchase, by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, of .8 hectare of the abandoned Mission site. In 1955, he was presented with a scroll honouring him as a Living Charter Member of the Okanagan Historical Society, and he was an honorary member of the Kelowna Riding Club. Four children were born to Shorty and Nancy Collett: Leicester, Barbara, Nancy and Basil. Basil Collett and his wife, Brenda, live in Kelowna (2010). Horace C.S. Collett died at Kelowna in 1975, at the age of 93. Nancy Collett died in 1976, at the age of 85. They are buried in St. Andrew's Churchyard, Okanagan Mission.

H. C. S. COLLETT

By L. C. A. Collett

Horace Carlisle Spedding Collett, known to all his many friends and acquaintances as "Shorty" because of his rangy six foot or so stature, was born in Ilfracombe in North Devon, England, in 1881. Like so many of his Devonian fellow citizens he had an adventurous nature and in 1902 emigrated to the Northwest Territories, to that part of which was later to become the Province of Saskatchewan.

Here he obtained work delivering mail to the rural areas by horse and buggy, and by sleigh in the winter time through the most extreme temperatures. He could not stand the Prairie winters and like many others heard about the Okanagan climate and came out to the Okanagan in December of 1903. At this time the Cameron family had moved into the Kelowna district and were farming the Guisachan Ranch, where he obtained employment as a farm hand.

His brother came out from England a year or so later and they formed the partnership of Collett Bros. which was a livery business, engaged in renting saddle horses and contracting for work requiring teams of horses, etc. The "Barn", as it was known, stood on the south-east corner of Abbott Street and Lawrence Avenue.

Many of the present houses on Abbott Street are built on "fill", as this was a swamp at that time, and Collett Bros. got the contract to supply the fill to make the land fit for building purposes. During this time Shorty Collett and two or three other men lived in a house on Abbott Street. One of the bachelors was appointed as cook. As one Christmas approached they decided to have a roast turkey. The cook never having roasted a turkey before did not think of cleaning it, so when it was done the smell nearly drove them out of the house; that was the end of Christmas dinner!

In 1914 he returned to England to get married to Nancy Locoock. He brought his bride back to Kelowna, where in the meantime he had built a large house on Pandosy Street, which still stands and is in good condition. Several large and beautiful blue spruce trees identify this place which by now must be 62 years old.

When Collett Bros. decided to dissolve their partnership in the livery business, he was appointed Manager of the Belgo Land Development Company, and later was the Manager of the Kelowna Land and Orchard Company, commonly known as the K.L.O. Ranch. This ranch raised many acres of fruit, dairy cattle, hogs, sheep and of course hay.

When this ranch was sold by Okanagan Loan and Investment Trust Company, he moved to Okanagan Mission and became Real Estate Manager for the above mentioned Company. This involved looking after many orchards which the Company owned or were overseeing for their clients, who were probably living in England, and also properties on which the Company held mortgages.

In 1955, during the Kelowna Golden Jubilee, 1905-1955, Mr. Collett was presented with a scroll by the Citizens of Kelowna, honouring him as a Living Charter Member of Kelowna Board of Trade 1906, and in recognition of long years of active life in the community.

In 1964 he was presented with a Life Membership in the Okanagan

Historical Society, in which he took a keen interest. The Father Pandosy Mission site owes much to Shorty Collett for its successful restoration.

He always took a great deal of interest in the Kelowna Riding Club of which he was made an Honorary Member. As an early member and President of the Kelowna Club for 1924 and 1925, he was for many years an Honorary Member of this organization.

In his later years, after severing connections with the Okanagan Loan and Investment Trust Company, he operated his own Real Estate business, dealing chiefly with agricultural properties in this area with which he was very familiar. There are several orchards in the East and South Kelowna Districts, the planting of which he supervised.

He was always a keen gardener and specialized in roses. He also took a great interest in breeding beef cattle and would raise about 15 head or so on his own property and then take them to the Kamloops Bull Sale. Although this was mainly a hobby, he nearly always did well at the Sale.

He died in October 1975 leaving his wife and four children, Leicester, Barbara Browne, Nancy Talbot and Lt. Col. Basil Collett.

EDITH GAWNE — A TRIBUTE

By Eric D. Sismey

Edith, small in stature, but with the heart of a lion, was one of those women, who, since infancy, had always done more than her share. Mrs. Gawne was born Edith Littlejohn in Dover, England, on February 7, 1892. Her father John Littlejohn, served in a Scottish regiment for 21 years. Soon after being pensioned, not finding much to his liking in Scotland, the family emigrated to the New World where they took up unbroken prairie land in Saskatchewan, near Eston. Edith tells in glowing words the struggles against bilzard and dust storms, drought and near disaster under conditions which, even then, were almost, but not quite overwhelming.

Edith summed up her life in these words: "What a panorama of life has been offered to those over 70. In one lifetime we have lived under six monarchs; through three major wars; through drought and depression. We have seen the development of a modern world, its communication by telegraph, telephone and radio; television and satellite. We have gas and electricity at our command; transportation from horse drawn vehicles to tram cars and from steam to gasoline and diesel machines. Travel from land into air and now into space.

In 1912, Edith married James Gawne (OHS 34th (1970) Report, pp. 79-80), the man who rescued her from death after she had fallen through the ice of a prairie slough. The couple moved to Madison, Sask. where they farmed and opened the first store and post office in the little town.

Married life started in a one room cabin, where three of her five children were born; with a team of oxen for ploughing. When the store in Madison burned in 1921 the Gawnes, after hearing the good things at Naramata, B.C., moved to plant one of the first orchards and to watch it grow.

Edith Gawne was active in the Naramata United Church and later in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Penticton. She was president of the Old Age Pensioners Association in Penticton and other similar organizations including the Canadian National Institution for the Blind, Canadian Arthritic and Rheumatism Society and the Okanagan Historical Society.

Edith Gawne loved flowers, she had a green thumb. Her house, Mona's Isle, a wide spot on the Naramata Road was a landmark, which motorists stopped to enjoy, and often received bouquets of roses from her garden where fifty named varieties bloomed all summer. Another horticultural delight were her tuberous begonias raised in a lath-house adjacent to her house. And when she moved into her first city apartment, soon after her husband's death, many of her prized begonias were taken with her.