

## **The Gleed Family**

"The Store's History in Okanagan Centre"  
"The Okanagan Centre Community Hall"

History

By

Sandra Bernardo

Challenge Grant Report  
1995

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The 1995 Lake Country Museum Challenge Grant research project began as the history of the Glead family. It then broadened to include the history of "The Store" in Okanagan Centre and also the history of the Okanagan Centre Community Hall, as Mr. and Mrs. James Glead played such major roles in the development of the original store and the community hall. I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to all those who helped me "put the puzzle together". Without their time and patience I wouldn't have been able to put together such a report. The details in this report are based on people's memories and so may not be completely accurate, however, every effort has been made to be as accurate as possible. I would like to thank the following people for their effort and give credit to other reports and newspaper articles that I have consulted:

Doris Phillips  
Ellen Baldwin  
Lydia Gabel  
Jeannette Buchholz  
Mary Jeglum  
Nora Magrath  
Peter Short  
Pat Richards

"The Faces of 1938-1939" written by Michelle Fiwchuk

"The History of the Churches of Lake Country" by Michelle Fiwchuk

"Sweet Little Mrs. Edith Glead" by Vera Elizabeth Pow

"Mrs. Edith Eliza Glead" author unknown

"Hall Dedicated to Pioneers" by Jack McCarthy

"Okanagan Centre Community Hall" speech by Angela Lynn Hayward

"Memories of three 'Summer Girls'" by Margaret Madsen

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## THE GLEEDS

### INTRODUCTION

The three Glead siblings: Harry, Sarah Alice and James Alfred all came separately to Okanagan Centre between the years 1906 and 1908. The Glead siblings were born and raised in Westbury on Severn in Gloucestershire England. The term "on Severn" was used to distinguish Westbury on the Severn River from other towns named "Westbury" in England. When the Glead siblings arrived to the area they all worked at various jobs until settling into more permanent work. Harry and his sister Sarah Alice eventually built and ran the Westbury Hotel while James Alfred opened a general store as well as becoming post master in Okanagan Centre (then called the express agent). James Alfred also worked as a carpenter and stone mason. As the years passed, the Glead siblings became prominent members of "early" Okanagan Centre. They were always involved in events going on in the area and gave a lot of their time to the community.

### HARRY GLEED

Harry Glead was born in 1878 in Westbury on Severn in Gloucestershire England. He sailed from England in March of 1907 and arrived at St. John's Newfoundland on March 27th. He traveled across Canada by train to Vernon, finally arriving at Okanagan Centre by steamer boats in that same year. Harry worked for the Okanagan Centre Irrigation and Power Company, the Maddock Brothers, building the pipeline from Beaver Lake for the first couple years. By 1908, his sister Sarah Alice, known as "Alice", had arrived and the two began building the Westbury

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Hotel in 1908. The Westbury was located on present day Okanagan Centre Road West where Mr. and Mrs. Short's house is now.

Before coming to Canada Harry Gleed was a school teacher in London. He taught at the same school as Grace Baker who would later become his wife. In 1912, Harry returned to England to marry Grace; they were married on July 13th, 1912, and remained in England. Mr. and Mrs. Gleed returned to Okanagan Centre a few years later with their three children and lived in a house on 8th street, across from where Bill Veness's house is now. The original house burned down, but was rebuilt and the Gleeds continued to live there. The second house is still there and has since been renovated.

Alice and her husband Noel Rheam had been running the Westbury since its completion in 1908, but in 1914, the start of World War One, they left Okanagan Centre in order to find a more promising means of making a living. They returned in 1919 to run the Westbury Hotel again. From 1914 to 1919 the hotel was closed down because during the war there were very few people traveling so business was very slow. Then in 1925, Harry and Grace Gleed and their children moved to West Vancouver and opened a cafe in Vancouver.

Harry and Grace had four children. The first three, Frances, Ida and Robert, were born in England and the youngest, Phyllis, was born in Canada. The eldest daughter, Frances, lived in Vernon, but has already passed away. Their second child, Ida Graves, is now living in Boise Idaho. The Gleeds also had a son named Robert. He injured his back on a fence when he was young and became crippled. Later on he got tuberculosis and died in his thirties. The youngest child, Phyllis, is an air line stewardess. She lives somewhere in the United States with her husband.

In the late 1930's, Harry and Grace returned to Okanagan Centre. In 1940, the Westbury Hotel, which was owned and managed by the Rheams, was sold to the Okanagan Valley Land Company. The building was used as a boarding house for out-of-town employees of the fruit industry. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gleed ran the boarding house for the Okanagan Valley Land Company. Mrs. Gleed also ran the "dorm" at Okanagan Centre; it was the first building just north of the store right across the road from where the packing house was. The Gleeds actually lived in the house next door to the dormitory that was owned by the

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Okanagan Valley Land Co. They also had two boarders in the house: Ted Wills from Australia and Jack Peters. Some of the girls who used to live in the dormitory while they worked at the packing house during the peak season (known as the "Summer Girls") remember Mrs. Glead enforcing the "No Boys Allowed" policy. She would also clean the common area of the dormitory and is remembered as being very good to the girls. The Gleadeds ran the boarding house until it burned down on Halloween day, October 31st, 1947. It is believed that they ran the dormitory until then as well.

Shortly after the boarding house burned down, Mr. and Mrs. Glead moved back to West Vancouver. Harry Glead passed away in a home in West Vancouver. After her husband died Grace lived in Kingman Home. When she was in her early nineties she went to live with her daughter Ida in Walnut Creek California (just north of San Francisco) where Mrs. Grace Glead passed away. Ida and her family later moved to Coos Bay Oregon and then to Evert Oregon and finally to Boise Idaho where they still live today.

#### SARAH ALICE GLEED

Sarah "Alice" Glead, the eldest child of the Glead family, was born in 1867 in Westbury on the Severn in Gloucestershire England. Before coming to Canada, she was the head housekeeper for a wealthy family in Cheltenham England. On June 6th, 1907 she set sail from Liverpool on the S.S. Lake Manitoba accompanied by a cousin named Annie Walters. Alice brought along her pet parrot that her brother had brought back as a gift for her from West Africa. They traveled all the way to Victoria and found work at the Dominion Hotel. In September of 1907 both Alice and Annie Walters moved to Nelson B.C., and in October they moved to Grand Forks. Early the following year Alice moved to the Okanagan to join her brother Harry. Annie Walters move to the States at this time.

In early 1908 the Maddock brothers were building the Beaver Lake Dam. Alice worked as a cook at the camp at Beaver Lake while Harry worked on the dam project. In May 1908, the two began construction of the Westbury Hotel. Harry and Alice asked their brother James, who was still in England at the time, to invest money in the new hotel. On September 1st 1910, Alice Glead married Noel Rheam. Mr. Rheam was a remittance man from Liverpool meaning that he lived mainly on remittances received

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from his home country (England). He had come to Okanagan Centre in the early 1900's. He is remembered by his niece Ellen Baldwin as a nice quiet man who liked to bird watch.

After they were married until the start of World War One (1914) Alice and Noel Rheam ran the Westbury Hotel. Once the war started business at the hotel declined considerably so the Rheams had to find other ways of making a living. They closed the hotel and left Okanagan Centre to go work on the KLO Ranch; Alice as a cook and Noel as a handyman. The Rheams must have returned to run the hotel again in 1919 because Ellen Baldwin remembers that her aunt and uncle came back when Doris (Ellen's sister) was just a baby and Doris was born in 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. Rheam ran and lived in the Westbury Hotel from 1919 to 1940. In 1940, they sold the hotel to the Okanagan Valley Land Company. Harry Van Ackeren, who worked for the company, had Teddy Hare build the Rheams a house on Maddock road. The deal was that the Land Company would give Mr. and Mrs. Rheam the lot and build them a house in exchange for the Westbury Hotel. The house is at the end of the road on the corner next to Okanagan Centre Community Hall. The house now belongs to Mrs. Garrity. After the Rheams sold the hotel they retired. Noel died in Kelowna General Hospital in 1952 or 1953. Alice Rheam lived in the house for several years after her husband died and finally moved to the David Lloyd-Jones Home on Bernard street in Kelowna. She passed away in the home on November 21st, 1959 at the age of ninety-two.

#### JAMES ALFRED GLEED

James Alfred Gleed, the last of the three siblings to come to Okanagan Centre, was born on October 9th, 1872 also in Westbury on the Severn. He worked for the British government in Nigeria for three years as a railway surveyor and photographer before coming to Canada. During his time in West Africa, James Gleed contracted malaria and because of that he had bouts of malaria throughout his life. Because of his illness James Gleed was sent back to England. Once he recovered he decided to join Harry and Alice in Canada. In 1908, James left Liverpool destined for Canada on the RMS Express of Britain. He then traveled to the Okanagan, most likely by train.

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Once he arrived he invested money in the Westbury Hotel that his brother and sister were building. James Gleed also became involved in planning and building the area as he was a self-employed carpenter and stone mason. In 1910 he journeyed to Montreal to meet his fiancée, Edith Eliza Morgan, also from Westbury on the Severn. They were married in Montreal and came to Okanagan Centre by train and lake steamer. When the newlyweds first arrived in Okanagan Centre they lived with Curly and Nellie Carter for a short time. The Carters lived in a small house on Maddock road just behind and a bit north of where Mrs. Land's house is now. Mrs. Carter lived in the house until she died in 1974, and it now belongs to Bob Pringle. The house has been renovated and added on to significantly.

At the time Mr. Ekins owned the post office which was located in a small house on the corner lot where the store is now located. Mr. Ekins also owned and managed the Grandview Hotel which was located where Okanagan Centre park is now. James Gleed bought the post office and little house from Mr. Ekins in 1910. Mr. Gleed ran the post office and started a small general store in part of the house. Some of the Okanagan Centre residents had said it would be nice to have a few of the basics available locally instead of having to order everything through the mail. So James and Edith Gleed started their business in late 1910 with only fifty dollars worth of groceries. The Gleeds soon added on to the original house so that it had a post office and general store area as well as living quarters. The store was named J.A. Gleed General Merchant and throughout the next thirty-eight years the building was added on to many times. Ellen, the oldest daughter, remembers that her father was always digging up the basement in order to add on to the building. Mr. Gleed was the post master or the express agent as it was called back then from 1910 to 1948, a total of thirty-eight years. The Gleeds were the first family in Okanagan Centre to have a telephone. Many of the residents used the phone, and Mrs. Gleed, who usually worked at the store, can be remembered busily taking incoming calls and writing phone messages for the locals. James Gleed also worked as a carpenter. In the early years he was frequently away from home for days building houses with E.D. "Teddy" Hare and Charles Devlin "Curly" Carter in Carrs Landing. This meant that Edith Gleed was left

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alone to take care of the post office and store, and later on to take care of their two daughters, Ellen and Doris, as well.

Edith Eliza Glead (nee Morgan) was born in Westbury on Severn in Gloucestershire England on November 21st, 1888. When she was a young girl her family moved to London, but Edith stayed in Westbury because the doctor had said that she wasn't healthy enough to live in the city and so she would be vulnerable to diseases which were more common in the city. Edith lived with her aunt and uncle who owned a bakery in Westbury; she delivered bread in the town with a pony and cart. Mrs. Doris Phillips remembers her mother talking about the horses she had while she was growing up in Westbury. She was always very fond of horses, and unfortunately never had a horse again after she moved to Canada.

On September 15th, 1910 Edith Morgan sailed from Bristol on the Royal George. There was an unkindly passenger on that particular voyage of the Royal George. A Dr. Crippen, who was wanted in England for murder, was also on the boat. He was arrested on the ship and the wireless was used to send word of him being on the ship. This was about the first time that the wireless was used. Apparently Edith Morgan didn't even know who he was or that he was on the ship until he was arrested. She arrived in Montreal on September 21st where James had traveled to meet her. They were married in Montreal before coming to Okanagan Centre. Mrs. Glead was always very independent and hard working as she had to run the business alone for long periods of time when her husband was working at construction jobs. Mrs. Glead was also very active in the community. She spent many hours cleaning the Okanagan Centre Hall, and at first she had to carry buckets of water to the hall because there was no plumbing. She was also the coffee maker for all hall functions. Mrs. Glead acted as the "nurse" for Okanagan Centre school whenever one of the children hurt themselves and needed assistance. Edith was also a member of the Anglican Church Guild from when it was formed, and a member of the Women's institute. She was also the secretary for the Badminton Club which played its games at Okanagan Centre Hall.

Mrs. Glead is remembered as a sweet lady who was always willing to help. Since their phone was the only one in the area for years, it became very important whenever there was trouble. Mrs. Glead gladly let people use the phone at all hours of the day or night whether it was an emergency

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or not. She always had a beautiful garden full of colourful flowers and spent many hours knitting and crocheting. One night when Mrs. Gleed was home alone with the girls, Mr. Gleed was working in Carrs Landing, she was frightened by noises outside their home. She went to check and found that it was only one of Mr. Grey's horses that had gotten loose. On another occasion Mrs. Gleed had started out to meet her husband who was coming back from Carrs Landing. Red Marshall had offered to give him a ride in his buggy. He had alcohol in the buggy and was drinking. He finally became so drunk that Mrs. Gleed had to take over the reins to make sure they didn't end up in the ditch. Mr. Gleed was later than usual so it was a long time before they met up with him. Mrs. Gleed went back to England twice with her daughter Ellen Baldwin in 1960 and 1968, but she always happily returned to Okanagan Centre because she said that England didn't feel like home anymore.

Mr. James Gleed was also very active in the community. He helped draw up the plans for the Okanagan Centre "All Saints" Anglican Church which was to be built on a piece of land at the end of Maddock road that Mr. Gleed had donated for the church. The church was started in 1910 and completed by 1911, but it was never consecrated so it became the Okanagan Centre Community Hall in approximately 1920. Mr. Gleed made three small windows with coloured sheets of paper between the two sheets of glass and donated them to the church to help finish the building. He became the first President of the Hall Association, and served as President for over twenty-five years. At the annual Hall Association meeting in 1945 Mr. Gleed retired from his position as President and was made honorary life President. Mr. Gleed was always willing to help prepare for hall functions. He painted back drops for plays that the children put on or any other event that the hall was used for. On June 9th 1985, the Okanagan Centre Community Hall was dedicated to James and Edith Gleed for all their time and devotion to the community. A plaque was set in place of a church cornerstone commemorating the event. Mr. Gleed can be remembered using his wheelbarrow to move mail bags to and from the wharf where the S.S. Sicamous and Okanagan steam boats would stop. He would pick up the mail twice a day because one of the steamers would deliver mail from the south and the other from the north. Mr. Gleed would also bring up large blocks of ice to put in the meat safe on the north side of

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the store building. He is also remembered for his talent in carpentry and of course his dedication to the community.

James Gleed had at least two attacks of malaria in Canada; one around 1919 and the other in 1948. In 1948, James was seriously ill and the doctors were unsure what was wrong until Mrs. Gleed mentioned him having been in West Africa and contracting malaria. That same year James retired and sold the store to C.A. "Art" Gabel. After leaving the store The Gleeds moved to a cottage across the street from the store where Lydia Gabel lives now. In 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Gleed moved to their newly built house at 11071 Okanagan Centre Road West. Their younger daughter Doris Phillips still lives there. James Alfred Gleed died on August 6th 1958 at the age of eighty-five.

After her husband passed away Edith Gleed continued to live in their home in Okanagan Centre. She had a stroke in 1980 when she was ninety-two, and after a lengthy stay in Kelowna General Hospital she moved to Pleasant Meadows Home in October of 1980. Mrs. Gleed continued to crochet and knit right until the last years of her life. She passed away in Pleasant Meadows on March 15th 1984 at the age of ninety-five. A service was held for her at St. Margaret's Anglican Church on March 21st with Reverend Eric Dexter officiating.

James and Edith's Gleed first daughter, Ellen, was born in the Gleed residence on July 9th 1911. She attended school at the old Presbyterian Church behind their house (the original school in Okanagan Centre) and then went on to boarding school in Vernon where she attended Miss Legalley School. She then went to the University of British Columbia in 1928 and graduated with her degree in Education in 1932. She returned to Lake Country and began teaching at Winfield Elementary in January 1934. She taught there while George Elliot was the principal. She then began teaching in Oliver in September 1943 where she taught until June 1956, and then she went on to teach in Burnaby in September 1956. Ellen Gleed taught both elementary and high school. When she first moved to Burnaby she taught at Burnaby North and eventually transferred to Burnaby Central where her younger sister Doris was teaching. Miss Gleed taught Mathematics and English and was also a girl's counselor. The other staff members at Burnaby Central didn't even know that Doris and Ellen were sisters until some time later because Doris was married and her name was

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Mrs. Phillips. Ellen retired in 1966 at the age of fifty-five and married John Baldwin in Burnaby. The couple then moved to Wales in the United Kingdom. They now live in Cumbern Gwent Wales.

Doris was James and Edith's younger daughter. She was born in Vernon Jubilee Hospital on September 26th 1918. She went to school in the old church until grade eight, 1923 to 1931. Since there was no high school in the area Doris did grade nine by correspondence. Then in 1933 she went to Kelowna Secondary School where she completed grades ten to twelve. The school was then a small building across the highway from where Kelowna Secondary is now. While going to high school Doris boarded in Kelowna and came home on the weekends. In 1937, Doris went to the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg to take Home Economics. The only Home Economics school in western Canada was at the University of Manitoba. She graduated from the program in 1941; then she took a year of education at UBC. She was part of the second graduating class, in 1942, in the Faculty of Education at UBC.

Doris Gleed then returned to the Okanagan and taught junior high in Kelowna at a school on Richter Street. She taught Home Economics and Applied Art. The years she spent at the junior high in Kelowna were the only years she also taught General Science. Between 1943 and 1948 (when Mr. Gleed retired) Doris helped out at the store. In 1948 after her parents sold the store Doris and her husband Chris Phillips moved to Burnaby. Christie Burnell Phillips was born in Burnaby in 1915 and came to Okanagan Centre in 1938 with Don Reynolds. He worked in the orchards and for the Irrigation District as a water bailiff. He also worked in the Woodsdale packing house. In 1942, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was stationed at Leeming Yorkshire England. He was the leading Air Craftsman (Air Force mechanic) in the Bison Squadron overseas. He returned to Okanagan Centre in 1945 and married Doris Gleed in 1946.

The young couple moved to Burnaby in 1948. The Phillips had one child, David, who was born in 1957. Doris taught at various schools in Burnaby until she retired in 1978. She taught at Burnaby Central from 1960 to 1978, a total of eighteen years. She then returned to Okanagan Centre to join her son and husband. Mr. Phillips and David had come to Okanagan Centre two years earlier, and Mrs. Phillips stayed in Burnaby

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**APPENDIX**

# Yesterday



Cap Clark, Harry Gleed and Surveyor Groves working on the Okanagan Centre Irrigation and Power Company (Maddock Brothers) pipeline from Beaver Lake. 1908  
Photo courtesy — Mrs. Frieda Sommerville

Harry Gleed, standing on the edge of the hole with shovel in hand, working on the pipeline from Beaver Lake in 1908.



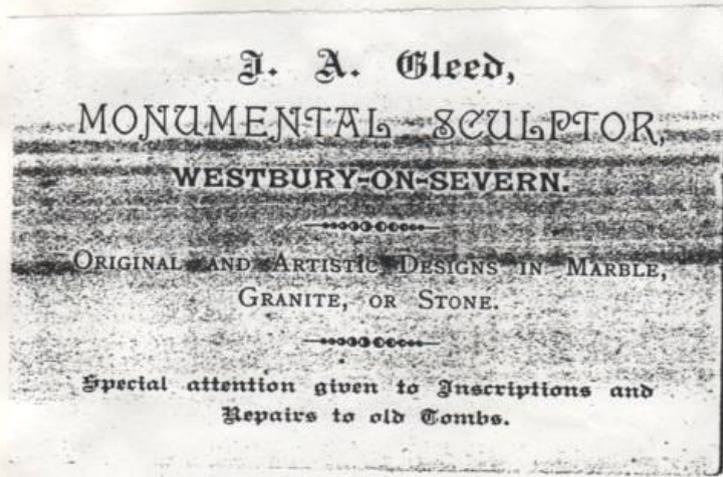
Left to right: Frances, Ida with her son, and Mrs Grace Gleed (Harry's wife)



The Westbury Hotel in about 1910.



Mr. James Gleed was the postmaster and store owner from 1910 until 1948. During the years he owned the store it was called the J.A. Gleed General Merchant store.



Mr. Gleed was also a stone mason and carpenter by trade. This is his stone mason business card.



Mrs. Edith Gleed (James' wife) on the boardwalk in front of the Westbury Hotel. The boardwalk ran all the way along the main street, now Okanagan Centre Road West, of Okanagan Centre.

**40 YEARS AGO**  
**November 1931**

Okanagan Centre Notes: The badminton season is in full swing and enthusiastic crowds attend Tuesday nights and Saturday social afternoons, while devotees play Thursday and Saturday in addition. A team motored to Rutland for a match, the members were Miss Caesar, Mesdames Gleed, Hare and Parker, and Messrs. Brixton, Caesar, Collinson and Wentworth.

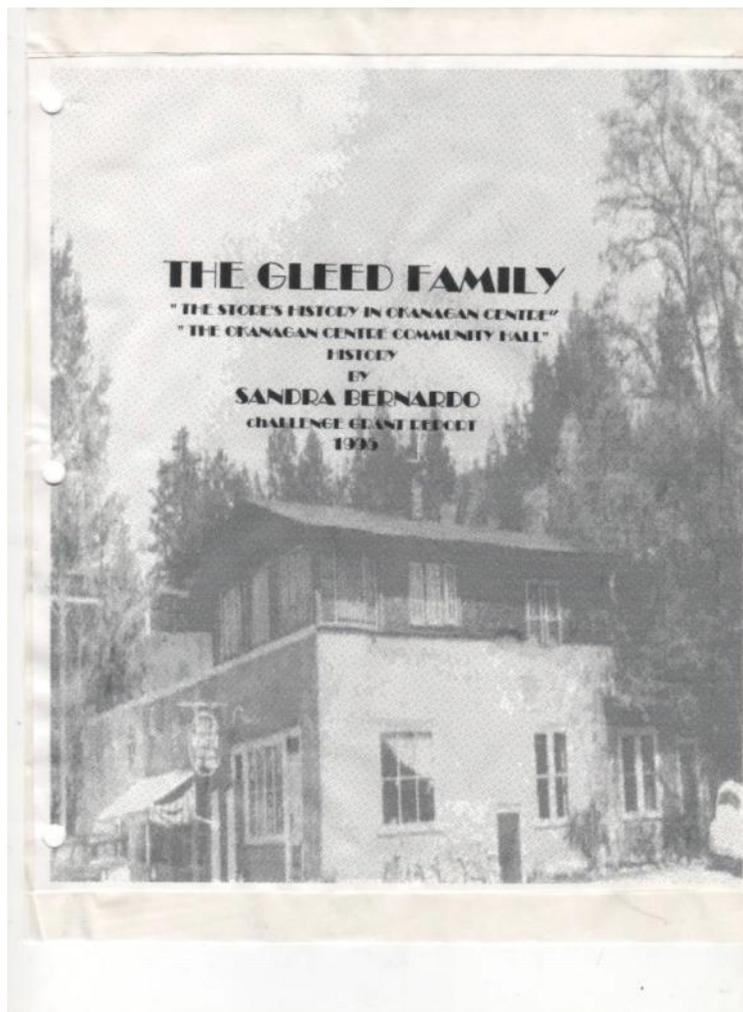
**40 YEARS AGO**  
**January 1921**

Okanagan Centre Notes: The Spinners and Bachelors dance at the Westbury Hotel on Friday night was the best in years. Mrs. Gleed, Miss Campbell Brown, Miss Chapman and Mr. Tozer, excelled in the artistic decorations of the ballroom and the palm room. Ladies gowned in silk and velvet, with escorts in evening attire, danced to the "Moonlight Waltz" played by Barrett's orchestra.

Newspaper articles about community events in Okanagan Centre, upper article is about the Badminton Club dated November 1931, lower one is about the Spinners and Bachelors Dance that was held in January 1921.



Mrs. Nellie Carter (left) and Mrs. Edith Gleed in front of Mrs. Carter's house.



## **The Gleed Family**

"The Store's History in Okanagan Centre"  
"The Okanagan Centre Community Hall"

History  
By  
Sandra Bernardo

Challenge Grant Report  
1995

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The 1995 Lake Country Museum Challenge Grant research project began as the history of the Glead family. It then broadened to include the history of "The Store" in Okanagan Centre and also the history of the Okanagan Centre Community Hall, as Mr. and Mrs. James Glead played such major roles in the development of the original store and the community hall. I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to all those who helped me "put the puzzle together". Without their time and patience I wouldn't have been able to put together such a report. The details in this report are based on people's memories and so may not be completely accurate, however, every effort has been made to be as accurate as possible. I would like to thank the following people for their effort and give credit to other reports and newspaper articles that I have consulted:

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"The Faces of 1938-1939" written by Michelle Fiwchuk

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## THE GLEEDS

### INTRODUCTION

The three Glead siblings: Harry, Sarah Alice and James Alfred all came separately to Okanagan Centre between the years 1906 and 1908. The Gleadings were born and raised in Westbury on Severn in Gloucestershire England. The term "on Severn" was used to distinguish Westbury on the Severn River from other towns named "Westbury" in England. When the Gleadings arrived to the area they all worked at various jobs until settling into more permanent work. Harry and his sister Sarah Alice eventually built and ran the Westbury Hotel while James Alfred opened a general store as well as becoming post master in Okanagan Centre (then called the express agent). James Alfred also worked as a carpenter and stone mason. As the years passed, the Gleadings became prominent members of "early" Okanagan Centre. They were always involved in events going on in the area and gave a lot of their time to the community.

### HARRY GLEED

Harry Glead was born in 1878 in Westbury on Severn in Gloucestershire England. He sailed from England in March of 1907 and arrived at St. John's Newfoundland on March 27th. He traveled across Canada by train to Vernon, finally arriving at Okanagan Centre by steamer boats in that same year. Harry worked for the Okanagan Centre Irrigation and Power Company, the Maddock Brothers, building the pipeline from Beaver Lake for the first couple years. By 1908, his sister Sarah Alice, known as "Alice", had arrived and the two began building the Westbury

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Hotel in 1908. The Westbury was located on present day Okanagan Centre Road West where Mr. and Mrs. Short's house is now.

Before coming to Canada Harry Gleed was a school teacher in London. He taught at the same school as Grace Baker who would later become his wife. In 1912, Harry returned to England to marry Grace; they were married on July 13th, 1912, and remained in England. Mr. and Mrs. Gleed returned to Okanagan Centre a few years later with their three children and lived in a house on 8th street, across from where Bill Veness's house is now. The original house burned down, but was rebuilt and the Gleeds continued to live there. The second house is still there and has since been renovated.

Alice and her husband Noel Rheam had been running the Westbury since its completion in 1908, but in 1914, the start of World War One, they left Okanagan Centre in order to find a more promising means of making a living. They returned in 1919 to run the Westbury Hotel again. From 1914 to 1919 the hotel was closed down because during the war there were very few people traveling so business was very slow. Then in 1925, Harry and Grace Gleed and their children moved to West Vancouver and opened a cafe in Vancouver.

Harry and Grace had four children. The first three, Frances, Ida and Robert, were born in England and the youngest, Phyllis, was born in Canada. The eldest daughter, Frances, lived in Vernon, but has already passed away. Their second child, Ida Graves, is now living in Boise Idaho. The Gleeds also had a son named Robert. He injured his back on a fence when he was young and became crippled. Later on he got tuberculosis and died in his thirties. The youngest child, Phyllis, is an air line stewardess. She lives somewhere in the United States with her husband.

In the late 1930's, Harry and Grace returned to Okanagan Centre. In 1940, the Westbury Hotel, which was owned and managed by the Rheams, was sold to the Okanagan Valley Land Company. The building was used as a boarding house for out-of-town employees of the fruit industry. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gleed ran the boarding house for the Okanagan Valley Land Company. Mrs. Gleed also ran the "dorm" at Okanagan Centre; it was the first building just north of the store right across the road from where the packing house was. The Gleeds actually lived in the house next door to the dormitory that was owned by the

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Shortly after the boarding house burned down, Mr. and Mrs. Glead move back to West Vancouver. Harry Glead passed away in a home in West Vancouver. After her husband died Grace lived in Kingman Home. When she was in her early nineties she went to live with her daughter Ida in Walnut Creek California (just north of San Francisco) where Mrs. Grace Glead passed away. Ida and her family later moved to Coos Bay Oregon and then to Evert Oregon and finally to Boise Idaho where they still live today.

#### SARAH ALICE GLEED

Sarah "Alice" Glead, the eldest child of the Glead family, was born in 1867 in Westbury on the Severn in Gloucestershire England. Before coming to Canada, she was the head housekeeper for a wealthy family in Cheltenham England. On June 6th, 1907 she set sail from Liverpool on the S.S. Lake Manitoba accompanied by a cousin named Annie Walters. Alice brought along her pet parrot that her brother had brought back as a gift for her from West Africa. They traveled all the way to Victoria and found work at the Dominion Hotel. In September of 1907 both Alice and Annie Walters moved to Nelson B.C., and in October they moved to Grand Forks. Early the following year Alice moved to the Okanagan to join her brother Harry. Annie Walters move to the States at this time.

In early 1908 the Maddock brothers were building the Beaver Lake Dam. Alice worked as a cook at the camp at Beaver Lake while Harry worked on the dam project. In May 1908, the two began construction of the Westbury Hotel. Harry and Alice asked their brother James, who was still in England at the time, to invest money in the new hotel. On September 1st 1910, Alice Glead married Noel Rheam. Mr. Rheam was a remittance man from Liverpool meaning that he lived mainly on remittances received

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#### JAMES ALFRED GLEED

James Alfred Gleed, the last of the three siblings to come to Okanagan Centre, was born on October 9th, 1872 also in Westbury on the Severn. He worked for the British government in Nigeria for three years as a railway surveyor and photographer before coming to Canada. During his time in West Africa, James Gleed contracted malaria and because of that he had bouts of malaria throughout his life. Because of his illness James Gleed was sent back to England. Once he recovered he decided to join Harry and Alice in Canada. In 1908, James left Liverpool destined for Canada on the RMS Express of Britain. He then traveled to the Okanagan, most likely by train.

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Once he arrived he invested money in the Westbury Hotel that his brother and sister were building. James Gleed also became involved in planning and building the area as he was a self-employed carpenter and stone mason. In 1910 he journeyed to Montreal to meet his fiancée, Edith Eliza Morgan, also from Westbury on the Severn. They were married in Montreal and came to Okanagan Centre by train and lake steamer. When the newlyweds first arrived in Okanagan Centre they lived with Curly and Nellie Carter for a short time. The Carters lived in a small house on Maddock road just behind and a bit north of where Mrs. Land's house is now. Mrs. Carter lived in the house until she died in 1974, and it now belongs to Bob Pringle. The house has been renovated and added on to significantly.

At the time Mr. Ekins owned the post office which was located in a small house on the corner lot where the store is now located. Mr. Ekins also owned and managed the Grandview Hotel which was located where Okanagan Centre park is now. James Gleed bought the post office and little house from Mr. Ekins in 1910. Mr. Gleed ran the post office and started a small general store in part of the house. Some of the Okanagan Centre residents had said it would be nice to have a few of the basics available locally instead of having to order everything through the mail. So James and Edith Gleed started their business in late 1910 with only fifty dollars worth of groceries. The Gleeds soon added on to the original house so that it had a post office and general store area as well as living quarters. The store was named J.A. Gleed General Merchant and throughout the next thirty-eight years the building was added on to many times. Ellen, the oldest daughter, remembers that her father was always digging up the basement in order to add on to the building. Mr. Gleed was the post master or the express agent as it was called back then from 1910 to 1948, a total of thirty-eight years. The Gleeds were the first family in Okanagan Centre to have a telephone. Many of the residents used the phone, and Mrs. Gleed, who usually worked at the store, can be remembered busily taking incoming calls and writing phone messages for the locals. James Gleed also worked as a carpenter. In the early years he was frequently away from home for days building houses with E.D. "Teddy" Hare and Charles Devlin "Curly" Carter in Carrs Landing. This meant that Edith Gleed was left

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alone to take care of the post office and store, and later on to take care of their two daughters, Ellen and Doris, as well.

Edith Eliza Glead (nee Morgan) was born in Westbury on Severn in Gloucestershire England on November 21st, 1888. When she was a young girl her family moved to London, but Edith stayed in Westbury because the doctor had said that she wasn't healthy enough to live in the city and so she would be vulnerable to diseases which were more common in the city. Edith lived with her aunt and uncle who owned a bakery in Westbury; she delivered bread in the town with a pony and cart. Mrs. Doris Phillips remembers her mother talking about the horses she had while she was growing up in Westbury. She was always very fond of horses, and unfortunately never had a horse again after she moved to Canada.

On September 15th, 1910 Edith Morgan sailed from Bristol on the Royal George. There was an unkindly passenger on that particular voyage of the Royal George. A Dr. Crippen, who was wanted in England for murder, was also on the boat. He was arrested on the ship and the wireless was used to send word of him being on the ship. This was about the first time that the wireless was used. Apparently Edith Morgan didn't even know who he was or that he was on the ship until he was arrested. She arrived in Montreal on September 21st where James had traveled to meet her. They were married in Montreal before coming to Okanagan Centre. Mrs. Glead was always very independent and hard working as she had to run the business alone for long periods of time when her husband was working at construction jobs. Mrs. Glead was also very active in the community. She spent many hours cleaning the Okanagan Centre Hall, and at first she had to carry buckets of water to the hall because there was no plumbing. She was also the coffee maker for all hall functions. Mrs. Glead acted as the "nurse" for Okanagan Centre school whenever one of the children hurt themselves and needed assistance. Edith was also a member of the Anglican Church Guild from when it was formed, and a member of the Women's institute. She was also the secretary for the Badminton Club which played its games at Okanagan Centre Hall.

Mrs. Glead is remembered as a sweet lady who was always willing to help. Since their phone was the only one in the area for years, it became very important whenever there was trouble. Mrs. Glead gladly let people use the phone at all hours of the day or night whether it was an emergency

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or not. She always had a beautiful garden full of colourful flowers and spent many hours knitting and crocheting. One night when Mrs. Gleed was home alone with the girls, Mr. Gleed was working in Carrs Landing, she was frightened by noises outside their home. She went to check and found that it was only one of Mr. Grey's horses that had gotten loose. On another occasion Mrs. Gleed had started out to meet her husband who was coming back from Carrs Landing. Red Marshall had offered to give him a ride in his buggy. He had alcohol in the buggy and was drinking. He finally became so drunk that Mrs. Gleed had to take over the reins to make sure they didn't end up in the ditch. Mr. Gleed was later than usual so it was a long time before they met up with him. Mrs. Gleed went back to England twice with her daughter Ellen Baldwin in 1960 and 1968, but she always happily returned to Okanagan Centre because she said that England didn't feel like home anymore.

Mr. James Gleed was also very active in the community. He helped draw up the plans for the Okanagan Centre "All Saints" Anglican Church which was to be built on a piece of land at the end of Maddock road that Mr. Gleed had donated for the church. The church was started in 1910 and completed by 1911, but it was never consecrated so it became the Okanagan Centre Community Hall in approximately 1920. Mr. Gleed made three small windows with coloured sheets of paper between the two sheets of glass and donated them to the church to help finish the building. He became the first President of the Hall Association, and served as President for over twenty-five years. At the annual Hall Association meeting in 1945 Mr. Gleed retired from his position as President and was made honorary life President. Mr. Gleed was always willing to help prepare for hall functions. He painted back drops for plays that the children put on or any other event that the hall was used for. On June 9th 1985, the Okanagan Centre Community Hall was dedicated to James and Edith Gleed for all their time and devotion to the community. A plaque was set in place of a church cornerstone commemorating the event. Mr. Gleed can be remembered using his wheelbarrow to move mail bags to and from the wharf where the S.S. Sicamous and Okanagan steam boats would stop. He would pick up the mail twice a day because one of the steamers would deliver mail from the south and the other from the north. Mr. Gleed would also bring up large blocks of ice to put in the meat safe on the north side of

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James Gleed had at least two attacks of malaria in Canada; one around 1919 and the other in 1948. In 1948, James was seriously ill and the doctors were unsure what was wrong until Mrs. Gleed mentioned him having been in West Africa and contracting malaria. That same year James retired and sold the store to C.A. "Art" Gabel. After leaving the store The Gleeds moved to a cottage across the street from the store where Lydia Gabel lives now. In 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Gleed moved to their newly built house at 11071 Okanagan Centre Road West. Their younger daughter Doris Phillips still lives there. James Alfred Gleed died on August 6th 1958 at the age of eighty-five.

After her husband passed away Edith Gleed continued to live in their home in Okanagan Centre. She had a stroke in 1980 when she was ninety-two, and after a lengthy stay in Kelowna General Hospital she moved to Pleasant Meadows Home in October of 1980. Mrs. Gleed continued to crochet and knit right until the last years of her life. She passed away in Pleasant Meadows on March 15th 1984 at the age of ninety-five. A service was held for her at St. Margaret's Anglican Church on March 21st with Reverend Eric Dexter officiating.

James and Edith's Gleed first daughter, Ellen, was born in the Gleed residence on July 9th 1911. She attended school at the old Presbyterian Church behind their house (the original school in Okanagan Centre) and then went on to boarding school in Vernon where she attended Miss Legalley School. She then went to the University of British Columbia in 1928 and graduated with her degree in Education in 1932. She returned to Lake Country and began teaching at Winfield Elementary in January 1934. She taught there while George Elliot was the principal. She then began teaching in Oliver in September 1943 where she taught until June 1956, and then she went on to teach in Burnaby in September 1956. Ellen Gleed taught both elementary and high school. When she first moved to Burnaby she taught at Burnaby North and eventually transferred to Burnaby Central where her younger sister Doris was teaching. Miss Gleed taught Mathematics and English and was also a girl's counselor. The other staff members at Burnaby Central didn't even know that Doris and Ellen were sisters until some time later because Doris was married and her name was

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Mrs. Phillips. Ellen retired in 1966 at the age of fifty-five and married John Baldwin in Burnaby. The couple then moved to Wales in the United Kingdom. They now live in Cwmbran Gwent Wales.

Doris was James and Edith's younger daughter. She was born in Vernon Jubilee Hospital on September 26th 1918. She went to school in the old church until grade eight, 1923 to 1931. Since there was no high school in the area Doris did grade nine by correspondence. Then in 1933 she went to Kelowna Secondary School where she completed grades ten to twelve. The school was then a small building across the highway from where Kelowna Secondary is now. While going to high school Doris boarded in Kelowna and came home on the weekends. In 1937, Doris went to the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg to take Home Economics. The only Home Economics school in western Canada was at the University of Manitoba. She graduated from the program in 1941; then she took a year of education at UBC. She was part of the second graduating class, in 1942, in the Faculty of Education at UBC.

Doris Gleed then returned to the Okanagan and taught junior high in Kelowna at a school on Richter Street. She taught Home Economics and Applied Art. The years she spent at the junior high in Kelowna were the only years she also taught General Science. Between 1943 and 1948 (when Mr. Gleed retired) Doris helped out at the store. In 1948 after her parents sold the store Doris and her husband Chris Phillips moved to Burnaby. Christie Burnell Phillips was born in Burnaby in 1915 and came to Okanagan Centre in 1938 with Don Reynolds. He worked in the orchards and for the Irrigation District as a water bailiff. He also worked in the Woodsdale packing house. In 1942, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was stationed at Leeming Yorkshire England. He was the leading Air Craftsman (Air Force mechanic) in the Bison Squadron overseas. He returned to Okanagan Centre in 1945 and married Doris Gleed in 1946.

The young couple moved to Burnaby in 1948. The Phillips had one child, David, who was born in 1957. Doris taught at various schools in Burnaby until she retired in 1978. She taught at Burnaby Central from 1960 to 1978, a total of eighteen years. She then returned to Okanagan Centre to join her son and husband. Mr. Phillips and David had come to Okanagan Centre two years earlier, and Mrs. Phillips stayed in Burnaby

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**APPENDIX**

# Yesterday



Cap Clark, Harry Gleed and Surveyor Groves working on the Okanagan Centre Irrigation and Power Company (Maddock Brothers) pipeline from Beaver Lake. 1908  
Photo courtesy — Mrs. Frieda Sommerville

Harry Gleed, standing on the edge of the hole with shovel in hand, working on the pipeline from Beaver Lake in 1908.



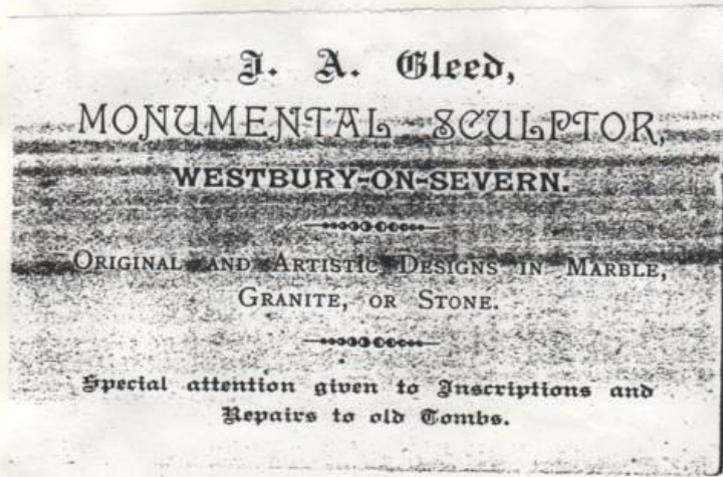
Left to right: Frances,  
Ida with her son, and Mrs  
Grace Gleed (Harry's wife)



The Westbury Hotel in about 1910.



Mr. James Gleed was the postmaster and store owner from 1910 until 1948. During the years he owned the store it was called the J.A. Gleed General Merchant store.



Mr. Gleed was also a stone mason and carpenter by trade. This is his stone mason business card.



Mrs. Edith Gleed (James' wife) on the boardwalk in front of the Westbury Hotel. The boardwalk ran all the way along the main street, now Okanagan Centre Road West, of Okanagan Centre.

**40 YEARS AGO**  
**November 1931**

Okanagan Centre Notes: The badminton season is in full swing and enthusiastic crowds attend Tuesday nights and Saturday social afternoons, while devotees play Thursday and Saturday in addition. A team motored to Rutland for a match, the members were Miss Caesar, Mesdames Gleed, Hare and Parker, and Messrs. Brixton, Caesar, Collinson and Wentworth.

**40 YEARS AGO**  
**January 1921**

Okanagan Centre Notes: The Spinners and Bachelors dance at the Westbury Hotel on Friday night was the best in years. Mrs. Gleed, Miss Campbell Brown, Miss Chapman and Mr. Tozer, excelled in the artistic decorations of the ballroom and the palm room. Ladies gowned in silk and velvet, with escorts in evening attire, danced to the "Moonlight Waltz" played by Barrett's orchestra.

Newspaper articles about community events in Okanagan Centre, upper article is about the Badminton Club dated November 1931, lower one is about the Spinners and Bachelors Dance that was held in January 1921.



Mrs. Nellie Carter (left) and Mrs. Edith Gleed in front of Mrs. Carter's house.