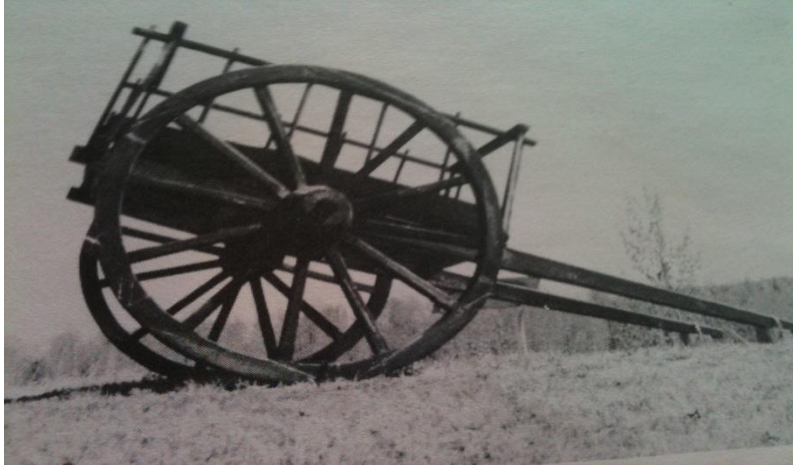


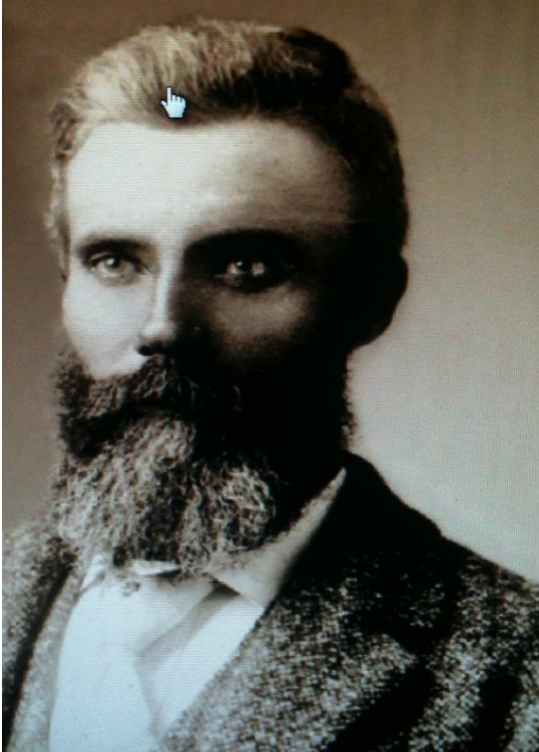
Gull Lake's First Settler- G.G. Mobley



Early visitors to Gull Lake were limited to travelling aboriginal groups, missionaries and traders, but that changed rapidly with the completion of the Calgary-Edmonton Railroad in 1891. In 1893, a survey map prepared by J. M. Aree showed a log cabin at the south end of Gull Lake where the township line intersected the lake shore. The cabin, the first in what is now the Summer Village of Gull Lake, belonged to an American, George Gale Mobley.

George Mobley was born in Washington County, Ohio in 1847. The Mobley family subsequently moved to Iowa and in 1863, he and his two brothers enlisted in the Iowa 7th Cavalry during the American Civil War. George, who was only 16 at the time of enlistment, lied about his age, and his recruitment documents stated he was 18 years old. As he belonged to company B, he likely spent the war in Nebraska (1863-1866)

After the Civil War, George settled in Colorado where in 1868 he married Mary Frances Reed with whom he had three sons. When this marriage ended in divorce, he left Colorado and moved to the Lacombe area and built that log cabin. He married Annie Laidlaw Fernie (1867-1951) in 1898 and raised two sons, John Fernie Mobley and Victor Laidlaw Mobley. He made his living as a farmer and carpenter, and by 1910, he and Annie also owned a millinery and dry-goods shop in Lacombe.



In May of 1897, George received a Dominion Land Grant for a quarter section of land located in what is now the east end of the village area. In 1906, he acquired an additional half section which he purchased in the name of his wife, Anne. A development plan for this area, included 72 lots comprising what are now lots 1 to 119 Oliver Avenue. The area was named Aspern or sometimes Aspen, the name now attached to the Provincial Park.

Subsequently, George along with William Wiese, Edward Martin and Robert Scott would be considered the first developers on the southern shores of Gull Lake.

George Gale Mobley died in 1919 in Kamloops, B.C.

Reference:

Blackett, R. (1988) Early Developers. *Once upon a summertime*.
Summer Village of Gull Lake

Google Search. George Mobley. Retrieved June 26, 2012

