

Thomas Ellis

Thomas Ellis, 20 years of age, arrived from Ireland in this area, May, 1865.

The place was called Pen-Tak-Tin (Indian name), meaning a place to live forever.

It was one of the first reserves in the area, laid out in 1861. It is now called Penticton, B.C in the Okanagan Valley.

Ellis became the first settler and built the first Protestant Church. He became a cattle baron and owned 30,000 acres of Valley bottom land, stretching from Okanagan Lake to Osoyoos Lake. Later, he drove a herd of cattle from Oregon, USA to his range here. He was given credit for planting the first apple tree. The ranch and ranch house were located on what is now Windsor Avenue. A plaque commemorates the spot, in the centre of the city now known as Penticton.

When he had built a home and made it comfortable, he made a trip back to Ireland and married his sweetheart, Wilhelmina on February 10, 1872.

They had nine children, but lost their youngest son in a bucking horse accident at the age of 23. He is buried at the Anglican Cemetery on Fairview Road.

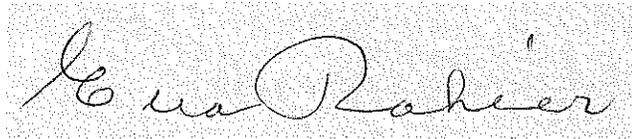
Wilhelmina was a busy lady with nine children. They also operated a General Store and Post Office and traded tea and flour for furs. Their home was also a

favourite stopping place for many travellers and no one was turned away. She managed to get plenty of help from local First Nations women. There were no schools and the Ellis children were taught by tutors.

Tom Ellis had many ranch hands who claimed they worked hard but were always paid wages and treated fairly. (My understanding is they ate at the ranch house.)

Tom and Wilhelmina Ellis resided in Penticton almost 40 years and then retired to Victoria, B.C. A Creek, School, Street and Chapel are named "Ellis" after them. They left behind the seeds of a city. Penticton has become the most coveted place to live in Canada (Our Canada).

In 1905, the Ellis Estate sold for \$400,000. Now one house in that area sells for \$350,000 and up.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gena Raheer". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, textured background.