

The Morley Trail

Submitted by Eugene Blakley



Red Cloud, a Stoney Indian.

The Morley Trail figures prominently in Millarville history as a major conduit of the Stoney and Eden Valley natives. Many a time we had natives stopping and trading various wares for potatoes, fuel ammunition etc.

The Morley trail runs basically under Agnus Ball's house (near Square Butte Hall) and can be used as a starting point to calculate where it ran. From Ball's the trail runs south on the east side of Coal Mine Ridge and runs through Dave and Glenn Ball's places to cross Fisher Creek around 288 St West. From there it runs south to cross Three Point Creek (originally North fork of the Sheep), south of the old Foster's place (now where Heartland is filmed). This is where the old Kew Store was located. From there it continues south staying on the east side of Ware Ridge and crosses Sheep River (originally the South Sheep Creek) and onto Morley on the south side.

North from Ball's, the Morley Trail stays fairly close to the Highway past Burby Creek and onto Bragg Creek. Once crossed, the trail continues slightly west to West Bragg and North crossing Sibbald Creek and from there possibly through the Jumpingpound Forestry area. Staying west of Old Buck Mountain, it would proceed North to Morley. It is possible to plan a horse trip close to the way the Natives would travel as it offers good water and an easier path to travel.



Peter Ear, Stoney Indian.

Many old families have memories of the natives. Two families (Blakleys and Fishers) were stopping places for the natives and Mary White, lives beside where they would camp and she gets her water from the same spring that runs out of the hill there. Mrs. Blakley would save clothes, furniture, etc. for them when they would drop in. Art Ball has found artifacts while plowing his fields and these include a flint lock pistol (circa 1700s), a hammer head weapon and a clay pipe. Susan Graham (Ball) remembers a story that her father Art told her about a knock coming at the door in the wee hours of the morning and finding a native male asking for baby clothes as his wife had given birth and needed the clothes for the baby. Also, she, remembers her grandfather trading potatoes for a horse from the native. Mr. Blakley plowed up a granite rock that had a groove around the centre of it and was fairly heavy. One of the natives, Enoch Ryder, said it was used by installing it on a forked branch and binding it with rawhide and was used as a club in fights.

Likely other families such as Remiers, Burbabys, Connups and Fullertons have stories about the Trail and the natives as well.