

Chief Warden George Davies

History of George Davies and all 'notes' have been submitted by Ron Davies.

Photo at right: Chief Warden George Davies around 1930 long before uniforms were part of the Service.

George Davies was born in Wales in 1887.

He had an English Public School education and was well grounded in English and mathematics.

He served as warden at Kingsmere, Waskesiu and Meridian. He worked for the Dominion Forestry before he came to PANP.

He served in the 1st war from 1914 - 1918 with an extra year in France in 1919 to assist the French farmers get back on their feet. When he arrived back in England they had some kind of deal for the returned soldiers that would assist them to travel to one of the Colonies. He tossed a coin between Australia and Canada and it came up Canada. He never went back.

George married Hilda Holland also from England. They met in Canada when he was working for PANP. Hilda never went back to England.

George retired in 1957. He died at age 83 in 1970.



The first wardens. Some transferred over from the old Dominion Forestry to PANP. Mark Mellon, Charley Walrod, Harry Genge, Bill Anderson, George Davies. The dog likely belonged to Harry.

Note: Harry Genge had one dog that I knew that used to bring the wood in to the wood box at Pine Grove. (Pine Grove is gone now). One just propped the door open and the dog would bring in the wood. It also brought your shoes or slippers on demand.

I learned a whole lot from Harry Genge such as traveling through strange back country, camping and all that goes with it.

We never had the advantage of looking up at the nearest mountain or mountain pass to orientate ourselves and we did walk. We walked a lot in the early days as park patrols were an absolute duty. There were no radios then so you were on your own.

One clear advantage was we were free of orders and instructions until we came back out. Once you left the cabin and the old bush line (telephone line) you were free of Chief Wardens, Superintendents, etc. (Good feeling!)



Horse patrol in the early years of the park. Mark Mellon on left. George Davies on right. Possibly Harry Genge with middle toboggan. 1930.

Some people questioned the use of horses instead of dogs. We could carry baled hay and oats for 5 to 8 days for the horses. Some stations had hay and oats stored.

Dogs required days off fishing with nets and drying of fish etc.

Warden Harry Harrison used dogs and liked them. He was stationed at Kingsmere in the late 1940s.

Mark Mellon rode on horseback from the USA approximately 1938. Not much was known of Mellon but he was looked on as a very capable warden who could look after himself and anyone else if they needed it.



Chief Warden George Davies with trappers Holver Lee on left and Finn John approximately 1929 at their cabin at Anglin Lake.

The trappers had a fight so they divided their cabin with a line down the middle on the floor. I understand that each had his time for cooking and washing. Some of us wanted to preserve this cabin but it was ordered to be burned by a Superintendent from a Western Park. "No mountains around it."

Note: This was an historic cabin. It is not true that it would have flooded out when they put in the dam at Anglin Lake. It was on fairly high ground. In any case the cabin could have been saved.

Chief Warden George Davies and Holver Lee, (standing). This area had burned over few years earlier than this picture and one could see for miles at that time.



Hilda Davies with son Ron at the old Meridian Station.

Like all Warden's wives she was an unpaid phone operator, animal feeder and sometimes alone for days with small children. No running water or electricity in those days.

Note: there were two phone lines. The old one line was from tree to tree (a ground line). The long distance line had two wires and was put in when the highway was made. Hilda operated the phone from her house. Grey Owl also had a phone line at Ajawaan.

There was no way to switch the one wire ground line with the two wire 'long-distance' lines together. My mother had to relay the conversations by dropping one phone and going to the other. She did a good deal of this for Grey Owl when he was at Ajawaan Lake.

Chief Warden George Davies and son Ron in 1930 or 1931. Car might be a model A Ford.

Note: my father would have been surprised if he knew he was holding a future Chief Warden on his lap.



Chief Warden George Davies and son Len Davies about 1940. Smoking was ok in those days.

This picture was taken at Headquarters Cabin that is now gone.



Retirement party for Chief Warden George Davies and wife Hilda. George's career as a warden spanned 30 years.

