

How did Quick's Bottom Park get its name?

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Canada Geese on Quick's Pond, 1967 (2015-014-007)

Quick's Bottom Park is named after brothers William John and Frederick George Quick. Around 1890, the brothers purchased 150 acres of farmland, including freshwater marshland and floodplain along the Colquitz River. The land continued to be farmed by descendants of William Quick until the 1970s. The Quick brothers, along with their mother, father and sister, arrived in Victoria from New Zealand in 1889 and settled on Wilkinson Road. Their first house was built in 1904 and demolished in the 1950s. A second house, built in 1913 and lived in by William and his wife Esther, is still standing at 4512 Wilkinson Road.



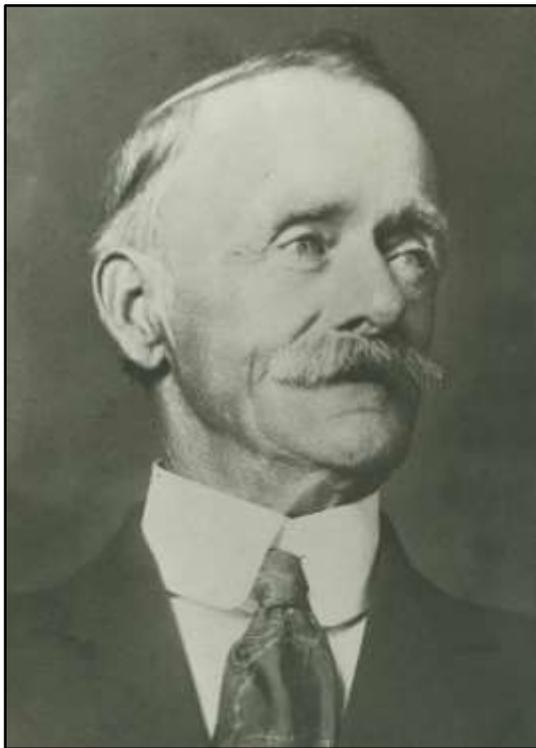
Original Quick family farmhouse, ca. 1900 (1980-007-003)



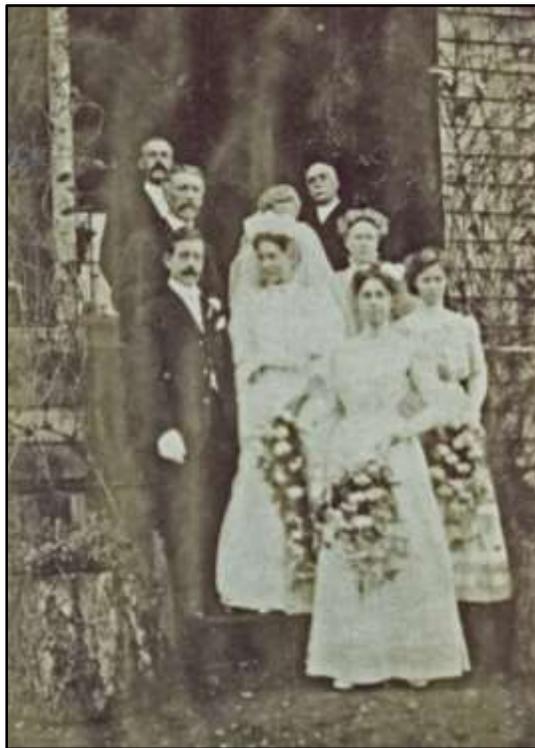
William Quick's farmhouse, ca. 1910s (1980-007-009)

The brothers initially farmed the land, growing corn and wheat. The fields were plowed every summer then allowed to flood naturally in the winter with drainage from higher areas and nearby creeks. Eventually they stopped pumping water from the fields and let grass grow for summer grazing by their cows. At one time the Quicks had the largest herd of pure-bred Jersey cows on Vancouver Island. William used to take the cows around the Island and over to Vancouver for shows, and he won many medals for his livestock.

Frederick Quick was Reeve of Saanich in 1908 and 1909, and was instrumental in the building of East Saanich Road. Both brothers played an important role in the incorporation of Saanich in 1906, and campaigned for the building of the Municipal Hall on West Saanich Road. William married Esther Carmichael in 1909 and William and Esther were instrumental in building the Royal Oak Community Hall. Esther was one of the founding members of the Royal Oak Women's Institute in 1911, serving as president in 1915. William was also a founding member of the Saanich and Suburban Baseball League. When William and Esther's sons Fred and Brodie "Buster" were teenagers, they played basketball at the Royal Oak Community Hall. William volunteered the services of the whole basketball team in adding and rebuilding part of the Hall, provided that the Women's Institute would buy the lumber. They agreed, and the boys built the wing where the kitchen was constructed, a ladies' dressing room in the basement, and an entrance wing on the north side.



Reeve Frederick G. Quick, ca. 1909
(2012-015-004)



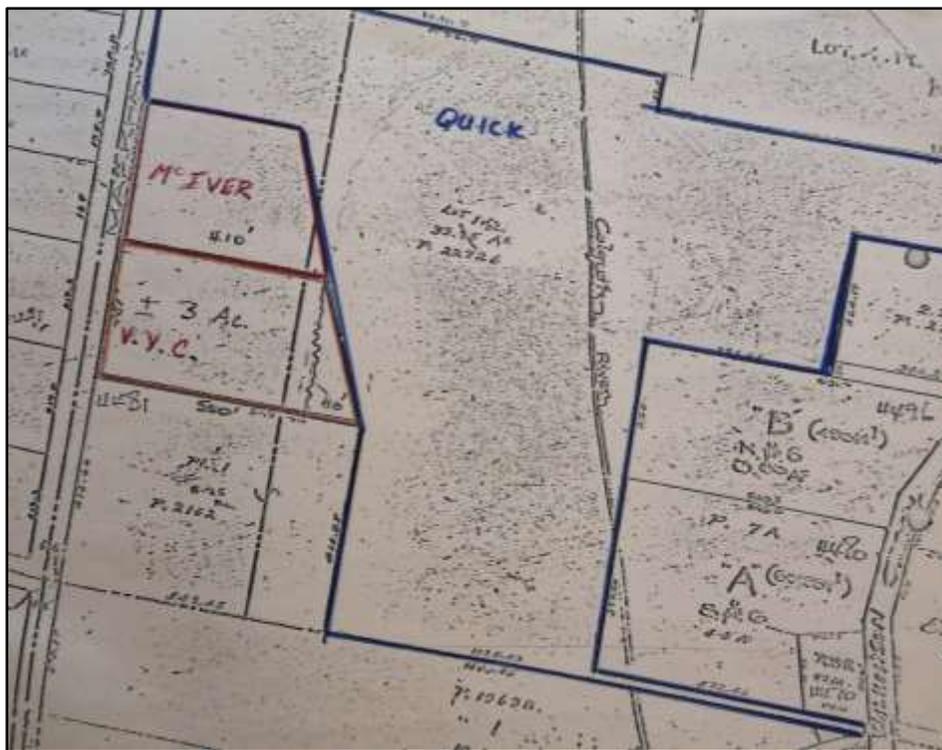
Wedding of Esther Carmichael and William
J. Quick, 1909 (2013-001-010)

The annual flooding of the Quicks' farmland created a popular outdoor skating rink used by locals until the 1960s. It was also a popular spot for local sportsmen. A group of doctors leased the pond in 1946 for private duck hunting and built several duck blinds around the perimeter. A trap-line for otter and muskrat was established on the property, and fishing for salmon and cutthroat trout was common in the adjacent creeks. Hunting in the area was eventually halted. A 1956 letter addressed to the Saanich Municipal Clerk signed by Buster Quick and six others requested that the sportsmen who had leased the pond for hunting from Buster for the previous three years once again be given approval to shoot waterfowl on the property. The application was not approved though, as the Police Commission recommended against it.



Hunters at the Quick farm, ca. 1910s (1980-007-011)

In the early 1970s, Saanich purchased 33 acres from the Quick family with the intention of preserving the land as a wildlife sanctuary. The new park was named Quick's Bottom, a name which was not chosen or approved by the Quick family. According to a 1988 oral history interview, Fred Quick not pleased when he found out the name Saanich had chosen for his "old swamp."



Map of Quick property and surrounding properties, 1972 (Clerk's files box 240, file 1)