



ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY

CHINOOK

THIS ISSUE:

Summer, July 2018

Volume 38, Number 3

www.afhs.ab.ca

WORLD WAR I

Page 7

Thousands of Canadians volunteered to be soldiers. Read about one young man's experience.

CALGARY CONNECTIONS

Page 25

The 50th Battalion was based in Calgary. This story will tell you about one of its members.

Let's Connect

Page 6

Starting in September, Monthly Meetings will be at The Village!

Page 33

Ever thought of becoming an editor? Here's your chance!

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE AFHS

Page 37

We hope to see you at our upcoming **FamilyRoots 2018 Conference!** Beyond Ethnicity: Finding Family through DNA.



Canadian Gunners in the Mud, Passchendaele by Alfred Bastien

A group of Canadian gunners struggling to release one of their guns from the mud. The artist's focus on the gun, rather than on the soldiers, underlines the importance of this weapon to success on the battlefield. The terrible shelling and constant rain reduced the Passchendaele battlefield to a sea of mud.

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/photos/2800/19710261-0093.jpg>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Michele's Musings — *Michele Buhler* [3](#)

President's Message — *Warren Peterson* [5](#)

World War I:

Tommie's Tale — *Suzanne Davidson* [7](#)

A Welsh Family's WWI Letters — *Ann Williams* [21](#)

Calgary Connections:

From Calgary to 'No Man's Land' & Back — *Brian J. Glendinning* [25](#)

Let's Connect!:

AFHS General Meetings & Our Community [6](#)

New Editor Needed [33](#)

The *Windsock* [33](#)

Insider's Guide to the AFHS:

Genealogy & The Little Ice Age [34](#)

Volunteer Appreciation [35](#)

FamilyRoots 2018 — Beyond Ethnicity: Finding Family with DNA [37](#)

What's Out There? — *Linda Murray* [38](#)

AFHS Publications [38](#)

Southern Alberta Cemetery Records [40](#)

Alberta Family Histories Society Information [41](#)



Michele Buhler

AFHS Chinook Editor

MICHELE'S MUSINGS

HELLO & WELCOME TO *CHINOOK* . . .

This issue is dedicated to the men and women who fought and died in The Great War – **World War I**. To contemplate the lives lost and those whose lives were inextricably changed is unimaginable. Three stories in this issue demonstrate some of the difficulties faced by those who lived through these times, but also the courageous way they were able to live their lives and find moments of joy in the midst of such overwhelming tragedy.

Tommie's Tale by Suzanne Davidson is both a heartwarming and heartbreaking story of a young man who came to Canada as a home child in 1911, signed up to serve in WWI three years later, and after suffering numerous injuries was discharged in October 1918. He died in 1926 at only 32 years of age. Stories of soldiers often tell of only their war-time service. The extensive research that Suzanne provides gives readers an understanding of this young man's life before, during and after the war. Ann Williams' **A Welsh Family's WWI Letters** gives a glimpse into the lives of 10 members of a Welsh family during WWI by way of their written correspondence. These excerpts expose us to how people lived their lives, their feelings and beliefs, and the words and phrases they used to describe the world around them during this time.

This issue's **Calgary Connections** features Brian J. Glendinning's article **From Calgary to 'No Man's Land' and Back**. It not only details the story of Brian's Great Uncle Allan Sibbald, but also recognizes the importance of the 50th Canadian Battalion which was based in Calgary. The map and descriptions of the battles fought by this battalion provide the reader with a bigger picture of this complex war.

The AFHS General Meetings in May and June were wonderful events and are detailed in the **Insider's Guide to the AFHS**. The presentation in May by Wayne Sheppard on **Genealogy & The Little Ice Age** had so much interesting information that I wanted to hear it again! Our June **Volunteer Appreciation** event was full of light-hearted humour as members told tales of their family's "Black Sheep" which was followed by a gathering of members who enjoyed cake and conversation.

As many of you know, I am stepping down from my role as *Chinook's* editor. Like any good genealogist, I feel it is important to look back at the past and acknowledge what has been accomplished. I have been fortunate to have some talented people help me in this endeavour – most especially, Ann Williams and

Colleen Hetherington who proofread and provided so many suggestions and corrections (in the politest way). What a privilege it has been to work with both of you!

I must also thank my column contributors: Ann William's vision to include stories specifically focused on Calgary came alive in **Calgary Connections**, and Linda Murray consistently provided readers with relevant books and articles in her **What's Out There** column. If you're ever wondering if there's something "out there" that may help in your research, I encourage you to refer to past issues of these columns — they just might have the answer you're looking for!

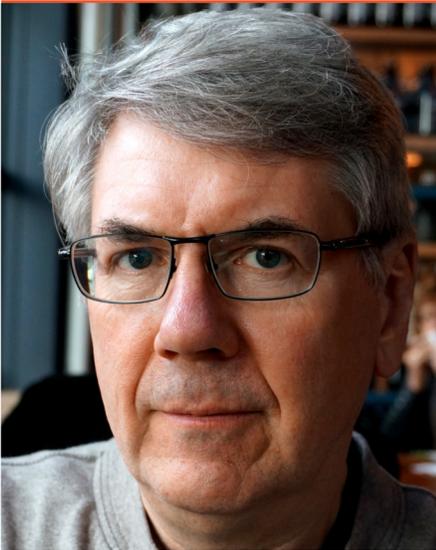
Finally, I must recognize the members who read *Chinook*, sent me suggestions, and most especially, articles. The aspect of *Chinook*, I am most satisfied with is the number of **original** articles that were published in *Chinook* over the last three years. When I started, it was just a trickle. But that trickle has now turned into a steady stream of stories, stories that would have never been written or heard. So often we rely on "experts" to tell the stories of the past while discounting the stories that each one of our families hold in the photos, letters, diaries and even, minds of our still-living relatives. These are treasures that we need to acknowledge and share before they are lost. Future genealogists will thank you!

A Final Note:

Although I will no longer be accepting new content for *Chinook*, I will still answer any questions sent to the editor until a replacement is found. Until then, you can reach me at editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

My very best wishes,

Michele Buhler



Warren Peterson

AFHS President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome, ongoing members, volunteers and persons who have recently discovered the Alberta Family Histories Society!

The simple concept of 'welcome' is the basis of my message to you. It's going to be my ongoing theme as President and the one I'm encouraging everyone to share. I believe that a welcoming, sharing and supportive environment is a natural fit with genealogy and a core strength of our members. It is also crucial to our sustainability as an organization in a modern world. To borrow a slogan from the airline industry, 'Thank you for choosing AFHS. We know you have choices among many worthwhile activities and organizations.'

AHFS members share a special combination of skills and traits. AFHS members are puzzle solvers, communicators, teachers, historians, anthropologists, collectors and internet explorers. We share our sandbox extremely well, as evidenced by our meetings, SIGs, library and on-line resources. The AFHS leadership team is certain there are like-minded and motivated people in Southern Alberta who are simply unaware that AFHS exists or what our 'extended' family provides. How do we make those connections?

This year, we are dealing with our membership challenge in multiple ways. We have launched a concerted effort to market our organization, through which we will broadcast our message widely and effectively. Second, we are also hosting a special conference event on October 1 & 2, featuring Blaine Bettinger, a world renowned expert on DNA-assisted genealogy. DNA is a hot topic, of course, and we are confident about tapping into current public interest. Thirdly, we are negotiating a new space for our general meetings, one that boosts our sense of community and inclusiveness. Last, but certainly not least, is the one-on-one networking power of our members. We all know family, friends and co-workers who have that 'spark' of interest in family history. Let's invite them to freely sample our amazing repertoire of expertise, resources and real human interaction. For those who ultimately choose to join us as members, discovering us may literally lead them to finding their long-lost families.

I believe that AFHS and genealogy, in general, provides medicine to an increasingly divided world. All who take the time to understand their family history realize that all humans are connected, regardless of ethnicity, faith, nationality or other forms of categorization.

Warren

AFHS GENERAL MEETINGS

The location and dates for our General Meetings are changing!!

General Meetings will now be on the **second Monday** of the month at **The Village** from 7:00—9:00 pm. (See exception for conference below.)

Address: 4029 Brentwood Road NW, Calgary

Meeting Dates for 2018:

September 10—The Village

**October 1—FamilyRoots 2018
River Park Church. 6:30—9:30 pm**

November 12—The Village

December 10—The Village

If you are a member, feel free to send the Program Committee suggestions about topics, speakers, format and other matters. Contact the Committee with any ideas you may have. programs@afhs.ab.ca

OUR COMMUNITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017 - 2018

President	Warren Peterson
Vice President	Jacquie McGowan
Past President	Bob Eccleston
Recording Secretary	Heather Grant
Treasurer	Jim Benedict
Director (Finance)	Michele Buhler
Director (Facilities)	Vacant
Director (Genealogy Computer Group)	Vacant
Director-at-Large	Betty Ann Murray
Director-at-Large	Dennis Laughton
Director-at-Large	Peter McKenzie

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AFHS Archives	Marion Peterson
Casino Manager	Dennis Laughton
Communications	Vacant
Education	Vacant
Events Coordinator	Tara Shymanski
FFHS Contact	Ann Williams
Library	Linda Murray
Membership	Jacquie McGowan
Periodicals	Vacant
Privacy Officer	Kay Clarke
Programs	Christine Hayes
Projects	Vacant
Public Relations	Kay Clarke
Social Media	Vacant
Volunteer Manager	Vacant

PUBLICATIONS

<i>Chinook</i> Editor	Michele Buhler
<i>The Breeze</i> Editor	Vacant
<i>Windsack</i>	Vacant
Webmaster	Jim Benedict

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Celtic, Irish-Scottish SIG Chair	Susan Butler
Genealogy Computer Group Chair	Don Duncan
DNA SIG Chairs	Lorna Laughton & Linda Murray
English/Welsh SIG Chair	Ann Williams
Family Genes Users Group Chair	Jim Benedict
Family Tree Maker Users Group Chair	Nola Gutsche
Legacy Users Group Chair	Marion Peterson
Ontario SIG Chair	Helen Backhouse

TOMMIE'S TALE

By Suzanne Davidson

My interest in Walter T Robus was piqued during the burial of my grandfather, when I was a teenager as we read all the inscriptions at the cemetery and found one that did not seem to belong. I was given a very short reason as Mr. Robus was highly considered by my great grandmother. In 2003 a book was written on 'Cairns of Ontario' with a chapter on the cairns in Norwood for Walter T Robus, which had been dedicated by my great grandmother. Our family also received information from his great nephew in 2006 on the World War 1 medals received by Walter T Robus. With the release of medical and pay records for WW1 soldiers, a more detailed picture of his service during the war was available. Adding information from genealogical sources and letters and other documents from the Canadian Letters website (<http://canadianletters.ca/>) made a more complete picture, enough to generate the following story. The use of the book 'History of the 2nd Canadian Battalion' which Walter Robus' great nephew found at a military book sale also provided additional information.

Walter Thomas (Tommie) Robus was a soldier in World War I. He enlisted on 15 August 1914 and did not return to Canada until Christmas of 1918. During that time he was in the trenches and in hospitals. Some of his letters to Norwood, Ontario have survived and give an insight into the war. During the war he referred to himself as 'Wally', but that changed to 'Tommie' in Toronto after the war.

Tommie Robus was born to Henry Hunt Robus and Annie Louise Germain in Shoreditch, London, England¹ on 15 August 1894². Shoreditch is an inner city district on the northeast edge of the City of London³. His father was a printer⁴ and his sons trained to be printers also^{2,5}. Tommie was one of three children. He had a brother, Henry John about two years older and a sister, Annie Frances about three years younger⁴.

At the age of 17, Tommie immigrated to Canada on 25 February 1911. He arrived at Halifax on the Corsican which had departed Liverpool on 17 February 1911⁶. He was part of the Home Children immigration, probably due to high unemployment in England. A contributing factor may also have been to escape his domineering father. Upon arriving in Canada he became a farm labourer in Norwood, Ontario⁷. Norwood is a village of about 1,400 people about half an hour east of Peterborough, which is northeast of Toronto.

During his time in Norwood, Tommie became a member of the local militia, the 40th Northumberland² and he also attended the Norwood Methodist Church. While he was overseas, he maintained a correspondence with the minister, Rev A Mansell Irwin⁸.

Both of his siblings also immigrated to Canada. His brother Henry followed Tommie in 1912⁹. He settled in Toronto, married, became a compositor and printer and did not enlist. His sister, Annie also sailed to Canada in 1913¹⁰ intending to stay but returned to England, married and remained there.



"Tommie" Walter Robus—Salisbury at Bustard Camp. Seems to be showing off his food.

Britain declared war on 4 August 1914 and started its recruitment on 11 August 1914. Tommie enlisted in Canada on 15 August 1914 and left Norwood for Valcartier, Quebec at 7:00 am the next day¹¹. His attestation paper was signed on 23 September 1914 at Valcartier² just prior to boarding the HMCS Cassandra for the first transport of troops to Britain¹². He was registered as #8367 and assigned to the 2nd Battalion, G Company under Captain Francis Birdsall¹³.

The physical description of Tommie was "height of 5'7 ½" with a 37 inch chest fully extended, blue eyes and #7 complexion and hair"². Minimum requirements for serving in the trenches were a height of 5'3", pass a vision test, good teeth and 19 years of age. During his first month at Valcartier his sister, Annie visited from Quebec¹⁴.

Valcartier was a camp, quickly set up in the Laurentians along the banks of the Jacques Cartier River just north of Quebec City and is still a Canadian Forces Base. During August, thousands

of men poured into the camp either individually or as members of Militia units. Over time Battalions were organized and commanding officers were arranged¹². Infrastructure was constructed as the men trained in preparation for going overseas.

The trip to Britain began on 22 September 1914 with 2nd Battalion travelling to Quebec City to board the HMCS Cassandra. Other battalions also boarded ships, as in the end a flotilla of 33 ships left from the Gaspé Basin on 3 October 1914 on the way to Plymouth, England. The boats sat in Quebec harbour for two days, took two days to descend the St. Lawrence River and waited at Gaspé for about a week for three other boats to join them from the south and Newfoundland. After arriving at Plymouth, the men waited for four days before disembarking at night on 18 October¹⁵ and marching four miles to the train station. They arrived at Amesbury at 2:00 am. Horses were acquired there and a further march of eight miles was completed to Salisbury and Bustard Camp. The conditions of the camp deteriorated as the rains fell, somewhat preparing the soldiers for the trenches although there were tents at the camp¹².

Tommie began service in Armentieres, northern France near Ypres, Belgium on 17 February 1915. The Battalion had left Salisbury on 7 February 1915 marching to a train station to take a train to a port on the Bristol Channel to board a ship to cross the English Channel. Once in France a train trip and more marching was required to get to the front¹². His enthusiasm was described in his letters to Norwood¹⁶. He was excited to have shot at the Germans and considers the food "wholesome". The company had been in the trenches for about a week and received some rest. A rotation from front lines to the rear position was maintained so support could be provided or those in the front line could be reinforced quickly and rest at a location some distance from the front. Within a month of action, Tommie had been chosen to be a bomb thrower¹⁷. One activity of the



Tommie at Seaford Sussex

bomb throwers was to be the advance party for an attack to "throw bombs where lots of men were, to cause concern in the trenches"¹⁹. He admitted that it was a "dangerous job" but he was keen to "send a few Germans skyward" since they had killed civilians and soldiers. A month later, Tommie had become more resigned to the fighting and showed a little less enthusiasm. He had developed more of a 'job to do' attitude¹⁸.

Tommie was involved in both the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, which started on 10 March 1915 and the Battle of St Julien which started on 24 April¹⁹. Gas was used in the Battle of St. Julien but Tommie did not mention any ill effects in his letter to Norwood. 1st Company of the Battalion was virtually annihilated when the Germans opened fire as they charged towards the enemy¹² resulting in "640 casualties for the Battalion"¹⁹. He did mention acquiring "souvenirs of a helmet, Mauser rifle and other equipment" but dropped them in an effort to safely return to the trench. He was part of the "support for the Neuve Chapelle Battle" as a member of the 1st Brigade bomb throwers and also worked with the 10th Battalion²⁰ probably at Festubert where about 100 bombers went out and about 27 came back.

By 7 June Tommie received a promotion to Corporal^{20,21}. His pay was increased by ten cents to \$1.10 per day.

On 9 June^{22,23} shortly after he received his promotion, somewhere on the front at Festubert and Givenchy¹², near Ypres Tommie was wounded. He received a bomb, a potato masher in the jaw. "It did not explode but did crack the jawbone, cut my mouth and broke my teeth up on one side" of his jaw. He was lucky that he moved when he did, before it hit²⁴, or he could have been more seriously injured.

He spent about six weeks recuperating at the No. 2 Canadian General Hospital at Le Treport which was established in March 1915. This was situated in the Pays de Caux near Dieppe. There were a number of hospitals situated there, consisting of a total of 10,000 beds. Tommie returned to the front in France on 14 July 1915²³. He had missed the end of the 2nd Battle of Artois. He found the stay in the hospital surreal due to the lack of "shells going through the air and screaming as they pass"²⁴.

During Tommie's absence the 2nd Battalion had been busy in the trenches of Ploegsteert and Wulverghem, just south of Ypres, Belgium¹². That was the area where he rejoined the Battalion. During operations, there were night patrols. Tommie participated in some of these which, at times, lasted for seven hours and took place in all weather conditions. In August he wrote a short letter just prior to going on patrol where he described the patrol of the previous night when they did not find the Germans they were looking for. The patrol was considered "a lively job and one had to be careful in regard to crawling around" so as not to be spotted by the enemy²⁵.

In a much longer letter posted five days later, Tommie provided a detailed description of his job as a bomb thrower²⁶. The group of fellows acting as bomb throwers were dubbed the "Suicide Club" since it was considered the "most dangerous business there is to do out here". This may have been self appointed nomenclature. In the Ploegstreet area (referred to as Plugstreet by the soldiers) the unit was "being bothered by a German patrol who came up to the listening posts". One patrol was detected and hit, possibly by a bomb but they managed to return to the German line.

On another patrol Tommie "set out one night with two of my boys to get news, commonly known as a reconnoitering party". Each was "armed with two bombs and a revolver in their belts". The three "crawled out about 100 yards from their trenches under mazes of barb wire in the dark and lay and listened". Since they had not heard anything a further distance of 50 yards was travelled by "crawling along a ditch". "Suddenly some dead limbs in the ditch cracked, evidently something doing. Then two rifles cracked too and the bullets just going between us. Jumping up, I threw a bomb, then a scramble and figures began to beat it down the ditch with our bomb following them. Our supply being temporarily exhausted we could not follow them up. We lay about an hour longer and nothing occurred but the rats (the biggest I have ever seen) running around. Then getting what particulars we needed we beat it back to our trenches amid a hail of machine gun bullets mingled with the pat-pat of rifles. That is just an every night occurrence along the line. It is very tiring but we manage to have a large amount of fun between times."

Details of the 'fun' were not given. At the time of his writing the company was having a rest. During this rest, Tommie was teaching a group in the 'gentle act' of bomb throwing since he had become an instructor.

One pastime Tommie and the other soldiers were interested in was gathering when possible, a number of souvenirs which he kept trying to send back to Norwood. According to other letters it seemed like none of these actually made it across the ocean.

During the past days of 18 August 1915²⁶, they were "having some very wet weather" causing "plenty of mud". For meals, Tommie's description was "tea and mud for breakfast, skilly and mud for dinner and tea and mud for supper". Skilly was the British name for a thin porridge or soup usually consisting of oatmeal and water with meat flavouring. This differed from the initial description in February 1915 of the food as "wholesome".

On 11 September 1915 Tommie was checked by the 2nd Canadian Forces Ambulance Station due to Adenitis neck,²⁷ which is a swelling of the lymph node in the neck. This was a check and back to duty.

By 17 October, Tommie had amassed many more souvenirs²⁸. "I got some good souvenirs last time in three German rifle grenades complete and two shell heads and have sent them to England to a friend for safe keeping, would

not send to you until I hear whether you received the others. One grenade had a message in German and is a great souvenir." Also noted in his October letter was "the last one of my section killed – a good fellow and another hit with a German bomb as few weeks ago, hard luck"²⁸. Tommie had been on the front was nine months.

A further promotion to Lance Sergeant was received on 15 November 1915²⁹ and Tommie's pay was increased to \$1.15 per day base.

Tommie's second injury occurred on 1 January 1916 at Wulverghem, Belgium³⁰. He received two GSW (gun shot wounds) to his right thigh. "One was the size of a 25¢ piece and the other bigger, fairly let the daylight into me"³¹. Shrapnel entered the back and middle third of his right thigh and then exited inside and middle third thigh, causing a small scar described as size 6. He was sent to Bailleul, near the front, then to Etaples on the French coast. There was a further transfer to England to Westgate on Sea on 6 January³² and then to Monks Horton on 23 February³³. Both of these were in Kent. During his time recovering, he describes himself as "have had rather a high



Digging out after a shell hit

old time here with my leg and I have not felt like writing to anybody"³¹. As of 29 February 1916, Tommie was deemed fit for duty with no disability and discharged to CCAC (Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre)³⁴. However he was to complete exercises for a month to regain his strength. During this time the contact address he used was his father, Henry Robus' printing office in Dunmow, Essex.

By March Tommie was at the CCH (Canadian Convalescent Hospital) Woodcote Park, Epsom. This hospital had 3,900 of the 7,500 beds available in the eight convalescent depots by the end of the war³⁵. He had received "three months electric treatment for my legs" during the of recovery time³⁶. At first there was a possibility of losing his leg but he received sufficient treatment that this did not happen³⁰.

During his time of convalescing Tommie "went up to London and saw Captain Francis Birdsall". He was also recuperating. He joined a group invited to Buckingham Palace³⁶. A comment that the "old 1st contingent is pretty well finished now" was included in Tommie's letter.

By 19 April he was discharged from Epsom and returned to the French front³⁷. On 15 May he was part of the Grenade Section of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Canadian Brigade. During a Board meeting he "was told I was permanently unfit, but I managed to come away with a little persuasion"³⁸. His thought process was "think I have done my bit already but something made me come again, don't know why, maybe 'cause there's too much fuss this way".

In mid May 1916, Tommie was at No 2 General Hospital in Le Havre being treated for tonsillitis over two days³⁹.

On 2 June, the Battle of Sorrel at Ypres began and Tommie was once again injured. He received shrapnel in his right shoulder and was on his back for about two weeks. "I got a shrapnel bullet clean through shoulder and my badge saved it from going through my neck"⁴⁰.

Initially he was at No 20 General Hospital in Camiers⁴¹ until he was transferred to hospital in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. A month later on 10 July he was at Fort Pitt Military Hospital in Latham. This was a short stay since two days later he was back at the large convalescent hospital at CCH Woodcote Park in Epsom. He figured he would be there for "several months", since he had "a special medical board last week and was marked unfit for further Active Service"⁴². It was not until 1 January 1917 that he was discharged⁴³.



The Battalion badge Tommie had at the end of the war. It is similar to the one Tommie credited with saving him.

During his stay at Epsom he was "in charge of a Division of Patients". In this position, he appealed to Rev Irwin to "get any of the folks around to send Canadian magazines to the boys here" as "time hangs heavy on their hands". Tommie also requested "if they could send a few cigarettes now and again". He also attended special medical board meetings where he was deemed unfit to return to the front. By 24 November he was "trying very hard for a chance in one of the tanks" division or asking for leave to Canada, since he so far had not been deemed fit for the trenches and even laughed at during a medical board meeting⁴⁴. With time on his hands during convalescence, Tommie wrote "I begin to yearn for a sight of the small town of Norwood, begin to forget what it's like". At a special medical board meeting, he was listed as also having flat feet. The result of the meeting was that Tommie "was marked a C.3. and so they want me to do clerical duty in London".

By February 1917, Tommie had "thought the whole matter over seriously and have decided to carry on for while till I get a little stronger physically and then out to France again".⁴⁵ He discussed this with a fellow bomber who had been injured three times before determining that he seemed to be called back, although he admitted that "nobody wants to be shot at".

It seemed that after losing so many colleagues that he considered that "we old boys took the oath when we listed and we have a lot of debt to pay so those of us left must and will finish what our comrades who have fallen cannot do"⁴⁴.

In the letter Tommie was also able to recount an exploit along the 'Fritz' line. "Somewhere near the Ypres Salient, part of the line was very close to the Huns, about 30 yards apart. I had my bombers right at the close part with a plentiful supply of bombs handy in case of necessity. The trenches were full of water and time hung heavy on our hands, so we decided to go on a tour of inspection, incidentally gather a few souvenirs, which the bombers were noted for and from whom fellows going on leave could get supplies, at so much according to the rarity of the find, funds received went to the standing fund used for extras."

On their tour, they crawled out one by one with revolvers loaded and pockets filled with bombs. They would "crawl ten or fifteen yards, lay quiet for a few minutes, with nothing doing we gradually crawled along Fritz's barbed wire and then pulled off some flare bombs. These are for when you cut the wire, they fall down and cause the bombs to explode and a big flame spreads out and shows you up and then Fritz does some shooting. Finally we got along to the close part and took a notion to annex a few stakes of a new pattern. Two members of the party proceeded to cut wire away from the stacks, then hush a sentry hears something, and the whole line rings out with rifle and machine gun fire. The party flattened out on the ground and tried to look like tree stumps. Star shells begin to go (star shells light up the



Lt. Walter T. Robus possibly taken when he went to Buckingham Palace. Writer has a similar signed head portrait dated 1. 3 or 5. 16. He went back to the field in May 1916 and August 1918.

whole of 'No Man's Land' and woe betide anybody who moves, he is dead man). After awhile the noise dies down and we carry on getting our stakes and all ready to go back, then one wag in the party wants to give some good souvenirs away, so accordingly we present Fritz with a good fusillade of bomb and we glide merrily homewards, deliver some of our finds to the Headquarters and make our way back to our dugouts, have a good drink of tea and a snooze, ready for action the next night."

Tommie was only deemed fit to return to France on 8 November 1917. He had therefore missed battles at Vimy Ridge, Messines, Hill 70 and Passcheandale, the third battle of Ypres. The village of Passcheandale was taken on 6 November 1917.

He was promoted to Lieutenant on 26 January 1918⁴⁶ but did not return to the front until 8 June 1918⁴⁷ when he was part of 2nd Canadian Battalion, 1st Canadian Brigade. His promotion was news back in Norwood⁴⁸.

After participating in the Battle of Amiens he was injured near Arras. This time the injury was to his chest and again he was dangerously ill⁴⁹.

On 8 August Tommie "went over the top in the famous Amiens show, when our Canadian lads took crowds of German prisoners". This was four years after his enlistment. "On 30 August, with 200 men and five officers he undertook to clean up a group of enemy machine gun nests. He did it, but found himself with only one officer and eighteen men on reaching his objective. 'Four officers had been killed and we took no prisoners' were his words to me (Rev Mansell). While consolidating their gains an enemy plane swooped down upon them with terrific machine gun fire and Tommie got peppered, a bullet through his right wrist, one through his ankle, another through his thigh, one down his right lung into the flesh and side, where is still lodges and a fifth cut down through his breast bone and was cut out of his stomach." However the one that entered his lung was not removed⁵⁰.

The result was “three scars in the chest, one small scar on his right for bullet entrance, one centre of chest three inches long at the lower end of sternum for bullet entrance, exit wound three inches long, one inch below cartilage of 10th, 11th and 12th ribs”⁵¹. After treatment Tommie was deemed category C-1, which is a non-combat designation.

Initially treatment was at the Red Cross Hospital at Wimereux, Northern France, by the English Channel. When he was first admitted, he was given morphine and had a temperature of 102.4°F and a pulse of 88 beats a minute. His temperature was back to normal by the next day; however his pulse remained high for a couple of days⁵². He was moved a couple of times in September and ended up at the Southern General Hospital at Plymouth. During October he was at the Canadian Consul Hospital in Matlock, Bath and discharged on 21 October.⁵³

On 12 December 1918 Tommie’s war service was over and he boarded the HMCS Regina at Liverpool on route to Halifax “He was in charge of a party of convalescent heroes”⁵¹. The ship reached Halifax on 20 December⁵⁴. Tommie had served in England and France with the 2nd Battalion, 6th and 12th Reserve Battalions, CCAC England and Eastern Ontario Regimental Depot at Seaford. He arrived in Norwood on 4 January 1919 and was mentioned in the local paper. He was a guest of Mr. W T Buck, his former employer⁵⁵.

He was “struck off strength” under general demobilization on 6 January 1919⁵⁶. At that point Tommie felt “weak and had dizzy spells about twice a week”. His appetite was “not good” and he said “he sleeps very poorly, sometimes not more than one hour during the night”. His service record was officially ended on 4 October 1919.

It seems Tommie stayed in the Norwood area for about a month and then left with little notice as Rev Irwin lost track of him until he read of Tommie’s death and sent a letter to the Toronto Star from his then position in Whitby, Ontario⁵⁰.

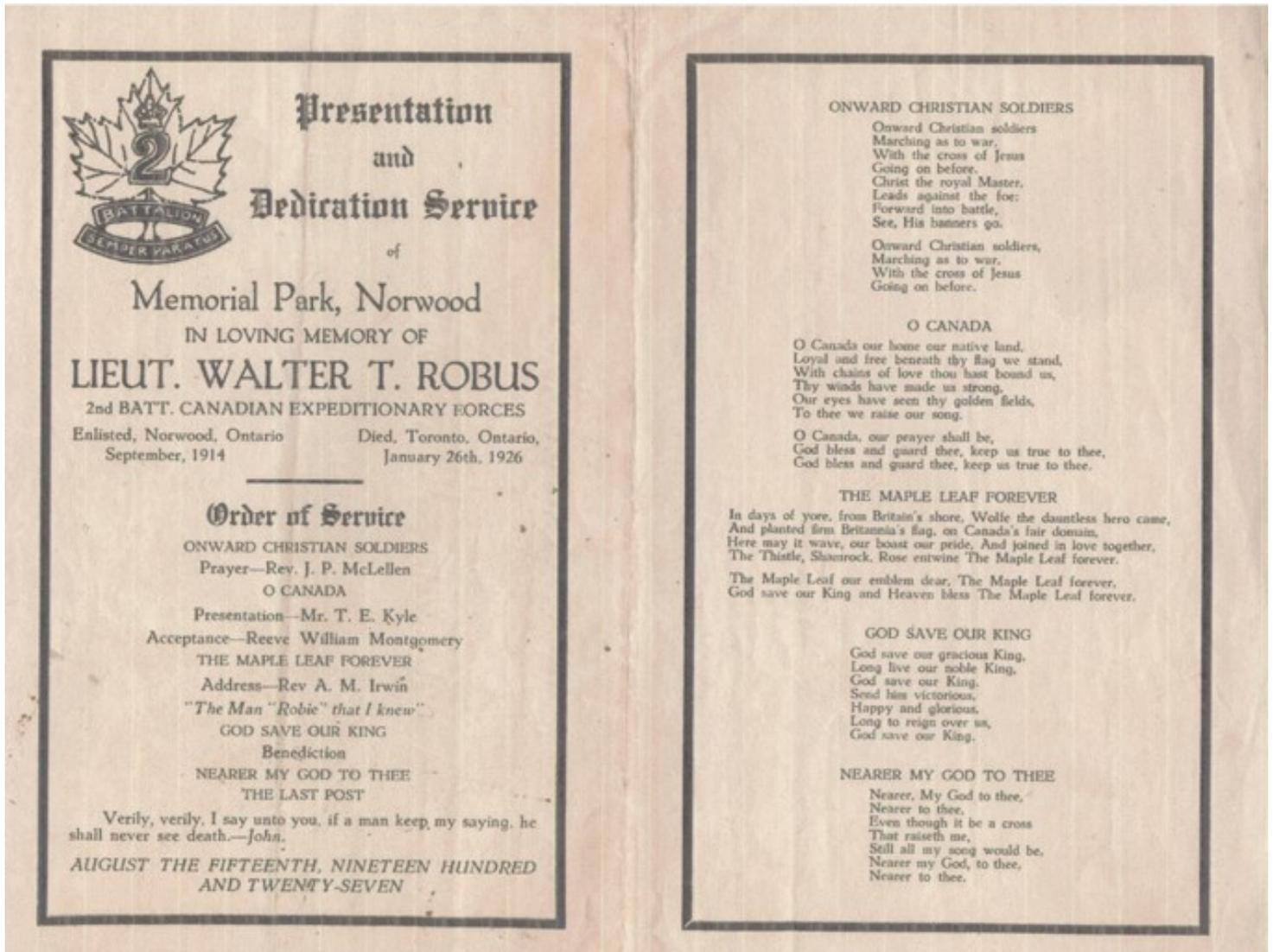
Tommie returned to England sometime after visiting his brother in Toronto. On 11 November 1924 on the SS Antonia. He arrived back in Canada at Quebec having travelled third class from England⁵⁷. According to landing comments, he planned to go to Toronto.

Initially Tommie was employed along side of his brother at a printing shop, but during Tommie’s wandering about Toronto, possibly in search of a place to live, he stopped at the stairs of the Brunswick Hotel and spoke to a person. This person was my grandfather, Cecil Davidson. Tommie found patrons of the hotel also to be friendly. After discussing the operation of the hotel with Cecil, Tommie decided he could help and sought to gain a position as a handyman or clerk. My great grandmother, Kathleen Davidson was the owner of the hotel.

Tommie ended up living at the Brunswick Hotel during 1925⁵⁸. While working at the hotel, Tommie told stories of the war to Kathleen and her daughter Shon. Kathleen was impressed and considered him a friend as well as an employee.

Unfortunately Tommie became ill in January 1926 and was transported to the Toronto General Hospital where he died of appendicitis along with hemorrhage and dilatation after four days. This time he was not able to leave a hospital.⁵⁹

His funeral was held on 28 January 1926 at the Brunswick Hotel. He had been in Ontario for sixteen years⁵⁹, four of which were spent overseas in the war. He was 32 years old. The death registry is signed by his brother, Henry Robus as informant⁵⁹.





Tommie was interred at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto beside Kathleen's husband Willy J Davidson and her father George Crittall.⁶⁰ In 1927, Kathleen Davidson bought a lot beside the Norwood War Memorial. This lot had an abandoned house. The house was demolished and replaced by two cairns made of stones with lights and plaques. One plaque says "This park is dedicated in honoured memory of Lt. Walter T Robus 1927". The other plaque says "Lt. Walter T. Robus served with the 2nd Batt from 1914 to 1919. Died in Toronto in his 32nd year 1926". Rev Irwin made an address at the dedication ceremony for the cairns in 1927.⁶¹

In 1941 after the death of Kathleen's beloved daughter Shon, a plot at Park Lawn Cemetery, Toronto was acquired by Kathleen. The caskets of Tommie and Willy were moved from Mount Pleasant to Park Lawn.⁶⁰ The inscription on the obelisk at Mount Pleasant remains and foot plates were installed at Park Lawn.

Dedication of the cairns on 15 August 1927



Cairns as they appear in present day.

Questions remain. Why was Walter Thomas Robus so important to Kathleen Davidson that he was originally buried in her father's plot at Mount Pleasant, cairns were made in Norwood and Tommie's casket was moved to the new burial plot at Park Lawn?

At least a partial answer was found in Kathleen's papers when her son Cecil was arranging her affairs after her death in 1964. He was horrified to find a marriage certificate between Walter Thomas Robus and Kathleen Davidson. His mother had promised not to marry Tommie. Kathleen was over twenty years his senior. Unfortunately besides the memorable reaction of my grandfather, proof of a certificate has not been found, which the family assumes he subsequently destroyed. I have not found an official record of a marriage and my great grandmother did not change her name. Tommie's brother signed for the death registration and probate. There is no mention of any widow benefit in the WW1 records, and my grandfather or his brother would probably have found out sooner if there was. My great grandmother would not have needed a widow benefit as she owned the Brunswick Hotel in Toronto.

After the end of the war participation medals were distributed. These included the 1914-1915 Star, British War medal and Victory Medal. Tommie Robus survived the war and had three medals to prove it.⁶²

He was remembered in the Toronto Star as "a real soldier, trim and strong. He was fearless in attack, heroic in suffering, unselfish in comradeship, faithful in duty and a generous and congenial companion and friend."⁵⁰

Suzanne Davidson has been a member of the AFHS for about three years. After researching family history to obtain Loyalist certificates she also targeted her father's side. Most of his great grandparents immigrated from England and Ireland in the 1880s. After retiring from the engineering field, her time has been spent participating in recreation activities and researching family history.



Sources

1. FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
2. Attestation paper Walter Thomas Robus Service Record B8408-S004, Library and Archives Canada
3. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:London-boroughs.svg>
4. Ancestry.com. *1901 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005. Class: *RG13*; Piece: *1598*; Folio: *60*; Page: *22*
5. Ancestry.com. *1911 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Class: *RG14*; Piece: *7257*; Schedule Number: *123*
6. Library and Archives Canada; Passenger lists; Microfilm T-4738; Database item number: 73280
7. "Recensement du Canada de 1911," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:276K-1RD> : 15 July 2016), Walter Robus in entry for James Miles, 1911; citing Census, Peterborough East District 112, Sub-District, Dummer number 21, Ontario, Canada, Library and Archives of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario microfilm T-20393, item number 6897513; FHL microfilm 2,418,518.
8. <http://www.canadianletters.ca/collections/all/collection/61331>
9. Ancestry.com. *UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012
10. Ancestry.com. *Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010
11. 29 August 1914 letter: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61336?position=1&list=GFhabyfRXbjZhthTBBpF7uofLkASRY0CDOF3V3E2nEU>
12. The History of the 2nd Canadian Battalion in the Great War 1914-1918 by Colonel W. W. Murray, 1947
13. Canadian Expeditionary Force, Second Battalion, Nominal Roll of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men
14. 20 September 1914 letter: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document61336?position=1&list=GFhabyfRXbjZhthTBBpF7uofLkASRY0CDOF3V3E2nEU>
15. Letter of 29 October 1914: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61653position=3&list=htLVejc7tSv5LpyhP1SotAWFkV0q36EEgocP-EOpIwc>
16. Letter of 25 February 1915: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61386?position=8&list=htLVejc7tSv5LpyhP1SotAWFkV0q36EEgocP-EOpIwc>
17. Letter of 24 March 1915: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61436?position=9&list=1dX9fFjIjsUBHJCHF19FUYPHYuFNm5ZkGsCYh9qjDM>
18. Letter of 15 April 1915: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61332?position=10&list=1dX9fFjIjsUBHJCHF19FUYPHYuFNm5ZkGsCYh9qjDM>
19. Letter of 7 May 1915: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61437?position=11&list=1dX9fFjIjsUBHJCHF19FUYPHYuFNm5ZkGsCYh9qjDM>
20. Letter of 7 June 1915: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61392?position=12&list=rHDAiaDWTAMofdYY7FIWThKxqCVnoLmGoRo8xldp24>
21. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 33 and 55; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
22. Postcard of 9 June 1915: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/collections/all/collection/61331/doc/226>
23. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 11, 12, 25 and 59; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
24. Letter of 24 July 1915: http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61391?position=14&list=u7Yypa_0R8uQJNoRFCpVXm196IjdvBFBTrIW56nhWxs
25. Letter of 13 August 1915: http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61333?position=15&list=Z8j_mDowLNWkKfFH0nwMUvNmPBn3-og-TdkeW0ly6kA
26. Letter of 18 August 1915: http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61334?position=16&list=Z8j_mDowLNWkKfFH0nwMUvNmPBn3-og-TdkeW0ly6kA
27. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 12, 17, 25, 53 and 55; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
28. Letter of 17 October 1915: http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61697?position=17&list=Z8j_mDowLNWkKfFH0nwMUvNmPBn3-og-TdkeW0ly6kA
29. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 33 and 53; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
30. Ibid; pages 21, 68 and 71
31. Letter of 15 February 1916: http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61650?position=18&list=Z8j_mDowLNWkKfFH0nwMUvNmPBn3-og-TdkeW0ly6kA
32. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 8, 17, 22, 25, 26, 56, 71, 83 and 84; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
33. Ibid; pages 21, 22, 71, 83 and 84
34. Ibid; pages 22, 43 84 and 85
35. <http://canadiangreatwarproject.com/hospitals/camcHospitals.asp>

36. Letter of 17 March 1916: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61434?position=19&list=oSDSh3f89fshCySDxCGL-856cmZA5ZYpjRzSFLjQ0uY>
37. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 8, 17, 25 and 85; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
38. Letter of 15 May 1916: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61438?position=20&list=oSDSh3f89fshCySDxCGL-856cmZA5ZYpjRzSFLjQ0uY>
39. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 8, 17, 25, 54 and 56; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
40. Letter of 14 June 1916: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61652?position=21&list=oSDSh3f89fshCySDxCGL-856cmZA5ZYpjRzSFLjQ0uY>
41. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 8, 18, 26, 51, 57, 59 and 68; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
42. Letter of 9 September 1916: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61698?position=22&list=oSDSh3f89fshCySDxCGL-856cmZA5ZYpjRzSFLjQ0uY>
43. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 10, 18, 25, 57 and 89; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
44. Letter of 24 November 1916: www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61453?position=23&list=oSDSh3f89fshCySDxCGL-856cmZA5ZYpjRzSFLjQ0uY
45. Letter of 12 February 1917: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61338?position=25&list=oSDSh3f89fshCySDxCGL-856cmZA5ZYpjRzSFLjQ0uY>
46. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 49, 51, 52, 67 and 75; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
47. Ibid; page 49
48. Newspaper entry of 7 March 1918: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61644?position=0&list=bkAji7v8xKR2D0qY96QZRbn3L3sLB91IRY2XafRSrPw>
49. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 35, 37, 59, 67, 68 and 69; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
50. Toronto Star Newspaper article of 6 February 1926: http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61642?position=2&list=fgMbj_yEr2V-LCoOgwagjdxZAEpTUxht-k3U-JhVaKo
51. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 35, 37, 49, 59, 67, 68 and 69; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
52. Ibid: page 27
53. Ibid: pages 10, 15, 23, 46 and 75
54. Ibid: pages 5, 19, 31, 48, 75 and 76
55. Newspaper entry of 9 January 1919: <http://www.canadianletters.ca/content/document-61643?position=1&list=2L8x2E8KQ3KpgPbUrdp-PRbsCHdavCdMQsEtv9oFZCK>
56. Walter Robus service record B8408-S004 pages 68, 69, 70 and 77; from Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=604058>
57. Library and Archives Canada; *Form 30A Ocean Arrivals (Individual Manifests), 1919-1924*; Rolls: T-14939 - T-15248
58. *Might's Greater Toronto City Directory, 1926*; page 877: <https://archive.org/details/torontocitydirectory1926>
59. "Ontario Deaths, 1869-1937 and Overseas Deaths, 1939-1947," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JFG8-36X> : 11 December 2014), Walter Thomas Robus, 26 Jan 1926; citing Toronto, York, Ontario, Canada, 166, Archives of Ontario, Toronto; FHL microfilm 2,079,747.
60. "Ontario, Toronto Trust Cemeteries, 1826-1989," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:24M8-GR4> : accessed 22 December 2015), George Crittall in entry for Walter Thomas Robus, 28 Jan 1926; citing Toronto, Ontario, Canada, section and lot N 38 6, line 46927, Volume 04, 1920-1931, Toronto Trust Cemeteries, Toronto; FHL microfilm 1,617,217.
61. <http://www.canadianletters.ca/collections/all/collection/61331/doc/230>
62. Inquiry to Veterans Affairs Canada in 2006; Ref No. 46833

A WELSH FAMILY'S WW1 LETTERS

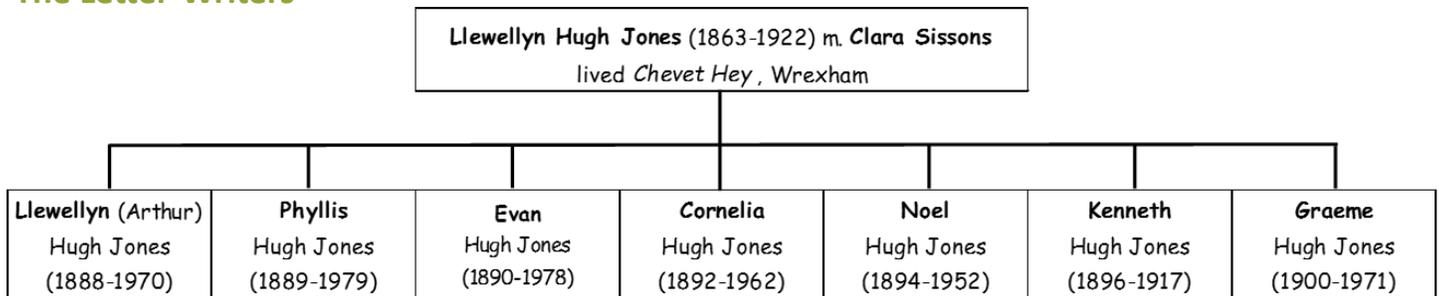
Published with permission of The Clwyd Family History Society and Mr. James Melik

By Ann Williams

In 1984 James Melik found a shoebox full of letters written 1914-1918 to and from the children of Llewellyn & Clara Hugh Jones of Chevet Hey, Wrexham. He transcribed the letters which, with background information, were published in *Hel Achau* (The Journal of the Clwyd Family History Society), issues 125-131, the series making compelling reading.

This article introduces the Hugh Jones family, sometimes in their own words, and looks back into their history.

The Letter-Writers



Rose Hugh Jones (Granny) - Llewellyn's mother. Clara wrote of her in September 1917:

"Granny seems very well though older, but she is mentally just as vigorous as ever and takes the keenest interest in current affairs. She loves to have the papers read to her pretty well from start to finish which is a bit of an effort, but then she is SO interested that it is worth it." Rose died in May of 1918 aged 83.

Llewellyn Hugh Jones - a solicitor with Messrs. Evan Morris & Company of Wrexham, Chairman of many committees and a member of the first Governing Body of the Church in Wales. He received a CBE in the 1920 New Year's Honours list and died in 1922 aged 58.

Clara Hugh Jones - Llewellyn's wife, principle letter writer, biscuit and jam maker, gardener, tennis player, organizer of Mothers' Union tea parties, knitter and smocker of dresses for her granddaughter in Egypt and sender of knitted socks and "comforts" to Wrexham soldiers at the Front. After about six years of widowhood, she left Chevet Hay and moved to Kent (probably to be near family). She died in Surrey in 1960 aged 95, outliving two of her sons.

Arthur - worked in the Ministry of Finance in Cairo (as part of the British administration of Egypt). He was awarded an OBE in 1937 and returned to live in England at the end of WW2.

Phyllis - quartermaster at Brynkinalt Auxiliary Hospital, Chirk. Phyllis said in a letter: "It was a strange sight to see in Wrexham [a train full of wounded soldiers just arrived from the

Front] and my goodness, some of the cases looked awful". In a 1917 letter to Arthur, Clara said she'd had a phone call from Phyllis who talked of having a rush of patients "but, wrote Clara, I think Phyllis rather enjoys this. She is just as happy as ever and looked quite well when I saw her last." Phyllis married in 1926, her brother Major Evan Hugh Jones giving her away.

- Evan** – enlisted in the Royal Engineers on September 1, 1914 and sailed for France mid-July 1915 where he and his men built concrete machine gun emplacements. That October Evan and four others were trying out a device for exploding enemy barbed wire. The device failed to ignite but attracted gunfire to the party. A bullet went in the front of Evan's shoulder and out the back, tearing rather a big hole but he managed to get back to his own lines and was awarded the Military Cross for his endeavours. He was evacuated to a London hospital for treatment – while there buying a replacement hat for the one left near enemy lines. Evan returned to *Chevet Hey* to recuperate. Phyllis managed to get home to see him and reported to her brother Arthur that "he's got a beastly wound and seemed not up to much, though he said nothing about it at all." Continuing, "One mercy is it will keep him at home for a month or two and as Noel is there too, they will be able to cheer each other on. You never heard such spluttering as when those two get together. Noel is so perfectly ridiculous at times and even Father has to permit himself a smile."

Evan returned to the Front, writing to his mother in March of 1917 (after a German retreat from his section): "They haven't left much behind. They have blown up most of their dug-outs, felled trees across the roads and left booby-traps such as rum jars which explode if the cork is pulled. But we are not as foolish as they think we are." He continued in engineering after the war, at one time being on the Highways Engineering Staff of the Ministry of Transport. He died in Sussex in 1978.

- Cornelia** – assistant at the Welsh National Hospital in Netley, Hampshire, volunteer quartermaster at a Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital near Cardiff, administrator in the Pensions Office in Wrexham who then enlisted in the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRENS) and was posted to Peterhead, Scotland in an administrative capacity. She was released from the WRENS in 1919 and took a civilian administrative post with the Admiralty.

- Noel** – enlisted in the Royal Welch Fusiliers on May 9, 1913, arriving in France in November of 1914 and spending the winter in the trenches of northern France. He was wounded in 1915, the *Liverpool Echo* of June 11, 1915 reporting: "The wounded officer had got out in front of the trench occupied by his company and was trying to adjust a maxim gun which had been upset by enemy fire. The Germans kept up an intermittent peppering of the emplacement and Lieutenant Hugh Jones was struck." Noel was evacuated to a hospital in southern France, his wound infected by aggressive bacteria. He returned to *Chevet Hay* to recuperate and was posted to the training camp at Park Hall, Oswestry as an Assistant Adjutant.

Seemingly this was not to Noel's liking for late in 1916 he resigned from the Royal Welch Fusiliers and enlisted in the Indian army, sailing to Madras on the *SS City of Birmingham*. Mid-voyage the ship was torpedoed and sank with the loss of four lives. Noel got into the last lifeboat but the gear jammed and he climbed back on board to

clear it from above. He jumped from the ship and was picked up after spending a considerable amount of time in the water. With the 53rd Sikhs he served in Palestine, Burma and other exotic places, retiring from the Indian army in 1946 and returning to England with the rank of Brigadier. He drowned while swimming off the Sussex coast in 1952.

Kenneth – began medical training at Guy’s Hospital Medical School, London in 1915 but joined the Artists’ Rifles in the summer of 1916. In a letter to his sister Phyllis he wondered if he, at only 5’3” tall and looking 17 or 18 would be made an officer in charge of taller men. However, on October 24, 1916 he went to France with his regiment as a Second Lieutenant. In a letter to his father early in 1917 he wrote: “Our mess (kitchen/dining space) is a dug-out roofed with corrugated iron where we alternately freeze and get smoked out. If one is only well enough to appreciate them, there are lots of funny things which occur in these queer places.” In a letter to his mother he said: “I went with the Company Commander to look for dug-outs where the Company might spend the night. We found a huge one still in the hands of the builders, the Royal Engineers. We were headed back when I saw Evan and he come back to the dug-out with us and had it fitted out with a table, benches and beds for us.” Evan wrote to his mother of the same meeting and told her that “Kenneth looked very fit and very muddy.”

Clara saw Kenneth herself in August 1917 when he came to *Chevet Hey* on leave “with the mud of Flanders still on his boots and puttees but looking so well and unchanged.” Kenneth returned to the Front just before heavy losses left him as the acting Commanding Officer. He was killed on September 20, 1917 and Evan in a letter to his father said, “I got the news this afternoon and went straight up the line to see his Colonel. The dear old tinker was leading his company in an attack when he was shot by a machine gun.” Clara was devastated but said in a letter to Arthur. “We do not feel that he is really gone because his sweet memory and influence will be with us always and we know we shall meet him again.”

Graeme – enrolled in the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in 1916, not going to sea until August of 1918 when he was posted to the Destroyer *HMS Restless*. In a letter to his mother he recounts how his war ended: “It was about 1:30 p.m. on November 11th that we got the news that the Armistice had been signed and hostilities had ceased, accompanied by an order to splice the main brace. “From that moment until 10 o’clock at night pandemonium reigned with perhaps a short interval while the men were having their tea. Sirens blew, bells were rung, whistles blown, rockets and Very lights let off by the thousand and brooms, baths and buckets and all sorts of other things hoisted up the masthead, flags flying everywhere. I never heard such a noise in all my life. It was even heard in Edinburgh, 10 miles or more away”. He was released from the navy in 1919.

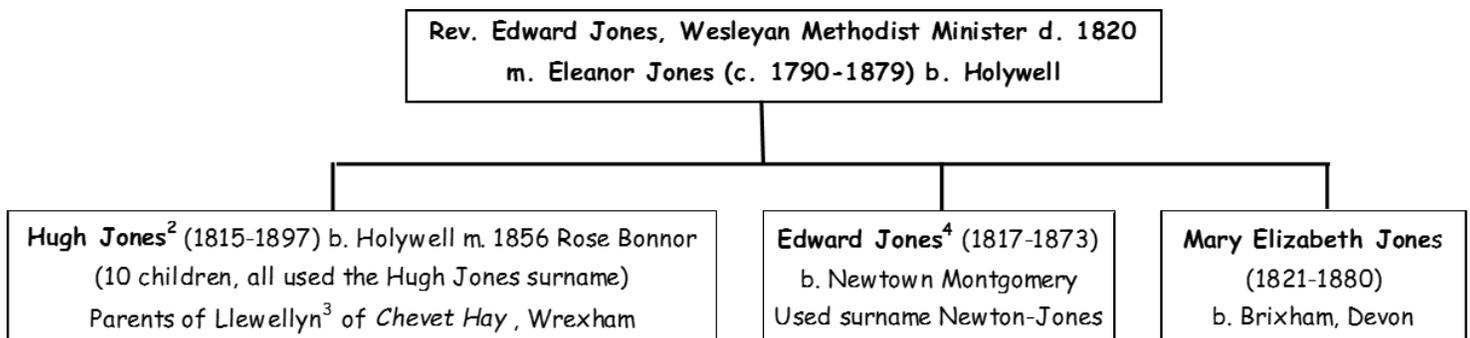
At the outbreak of WW2 he was in Hong Kong and was held as a Japanese Prisoner of War for over 3½ years. In 1952 he emigrated to Canada and worked for Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy, a Vancouver law firm where he specialized in Marine and Shipping Law. Their website states that: Graeme Hugh Jones never completely recovering from his WW2 experience, died in 1971.” He and his wife Beatrice are buried at Capilano View Cemetery, West Vancouver.

Family Roots

Rose Hugh Jones ("Granny") was the widow of Hugh Jones, Rector of Llanwrst and Archdeacon of St. Asaph. In the 1851 census (before he married Rose), Hugh (b. Holywell abt. 1816) lived with his widowed mother, Eleanor and his sister, Mary Elizabeth (b. Brixham, Devon abt. 1821).

FindMyPast has Hugh's baptism at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Holywell on November 5, 1815, son of Edward Jones and Eleanor his wife, daughter of Hugh & Elizabeth Jones, with the signature of Edward Jones, the parent, being identical to that of Edward Jones, the baptizing Minister.

Between *FamilySearch* and *FindMyPast*, two other baptisms in Wesleyan Methodist Chapels have been found for children of Edward Jones and Eleanor (daughter of Hugh & Elizabeth Jones): Edward baptised by his father in Newton, Montgomeryshire in 1817 and Mary Elizabeth baptised in Brixham, Devon in 1821 by a Minister called "Samuel". Looking back through Brixham records, the last time the Rev. Edward Jones conducted a baptism was in October of 1820 so it can be presumed that he died about that time.



Sources:

Hel Achau Issues 125-131 "1914-1918 What a Beastly War" serialized article by James Melik
FreeBMD
National Probate Index and Census returns (*Ancestry.com*)
Parish Registers (*FindMyPast*)
Parish Register Indexes (*FamilySearch*)

¹Author of the novel *Charlotte's Beastly War*, based on the letters. (available from Amazon)

²Referred to as being able to preach in both English and Welsh

³Recorded in the Welsh 1891 census (the only census to record languages spoken) as bilingual Welsh/English, his wife and children spoke only English.

⁴As Edward Newton Jones witnessed his brother Hugh's 1856 marriage, published the text of his sermon preached 13 Nov 1859 at the Anglican church of St. John's Lynesack, Durham on "Be still, and know that I am God" referring to the 25 Oct 1859 wreck of the *Royal Charter* in Moelfra Bay, Anglesey. He was the incumbent at the Anglican church of St. Matthias, Liverpool from 1868 till his death in 1873.

Ann Williams has been a member of the AFHS for many years and is currently the co-ordinator of the English/Welsh SIG. Ann's family research is solely in England and Wales and she is also a member of the Sussex Family History Group, the Clwyd Family History Society and the Guild of One-Name Studies. Her current research obsession is the Canadian WW2 army while in Southern England.



ATTESTATION PAPER.

ORIGINAL
34137
No. 184
Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? Allan Watt Sibbald
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Renfrewshire Scotland
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Father John Sibbald
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Knarves Farm
 5. What is the date of your birth? Dec. 2. 1886. Gornston, Renfrewshire, Scotland.
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? Farmer.
 7. Are you married? No!
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes!
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No!
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? 3 months to date drilling with ASC.
If so, state particulars of former Service.
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes!
 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? Yes!
- Allan Watt Sibbald (Signature of Man).
L. G. Sewell (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Allan Watt Sibbald, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Allan Watt Sibbald (Signature of Recruit)
Date 31/12/ 1914. L. G. Sewell (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Allan Watt Sibbald, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Allan Watt Sibbald (Signature of Recruit)
Date 31/12/ 1914. L. G. Sewell (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Calgary this 31 day of Dec 1914.

Gertrude Macpherson (Signature of Justice)
I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.
Gertrude Macpherson (Approving Officer)

800 M.-5-11.
H.Q. 177-1-13



Above: Crest of the 50th Canadian Battalion Expeditionary Force

The 50th Canadian Battalion was a battalion of the First World War Canadian Expeditionary Force. The battalion was commanded by Colonel E. G. Mason at the beginning of the war. Later in the war, when it was combined with another battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Page took over the battalion. The battalion's headquarters and its members were volunteers from Calgary and the surrounding area. They were added into the newly forming 4th Canadian Division because the brigade of Canadian Mounted Rifles had taken over the last few spots in the 3rd Canadian Division. These members of the 4th Division were recruited when the war started, trained in Calgary, and sent off to the Western Front with the rest of the 4th Division in 1916, just in time for the deadly Second Battle of Ypres. They experienced various gas attacks and counterattacks.

A detailed operational history of this battalion can be found on pages 14-16.

Above: Allan Watt Sibbald's Attestation Paper signed 31 Dec 1914.

Allan is mentioned in From No Man's Land by Victor Wheeler, one of the Regiment's history books:

50th Calgary Battalion

Christmas 1917 Vancouver Camp

Shortly before Christmas, Transport Officer Lieutenant Horace L. Blake had proceeded to le Mont, on the outskirts of Wavre, Belgium, to pick up a nice Clydesdale remount to replace one of the field kitchen team that had been destroyed after having been badly injured by shrapnel.

*Having selected a young grey gelding, Lieutenant Blake congratulated himself that he had made a good deal. Leading the horse homeward shortly afterwards, he was to discover that the remount was a bad actor and very hard to handle. He reported that "It quickly broke its leg in a fit of temper. I had no alternative but to drop the beast with one shot from my .45 Colt". Army Regulations, under Para. 2789, said: 'The animal must be destroyed and the four hoofs, together with the hide, must be salvaged.' Consequently, **Driver Corporal Allan W. Sibbald**, a butcher by trade, skinned the horse and left the carcass for burial. He further reported that "The townspeople of le Mont heard about the incident and asked for the carcass. We were glad to give it to them. Le Maire, as a token of gratitude, gave us a large beef roast! Tanaca, the Japanese cook.... roasted it, and we had a jolly good Christmas feed ."*



N/E				Medal)
No.	Rank	Name	Unit	Ledger)
434137	L/CPL.	SIBBALD, A.W.	50th. Bn.	Folios)
				Receipt) Nos.)
No.	Honor or Award	Date	Authority	Details
1.	Military Medal.	4.12.18.	Corps Order. 1989.	
		14.5.19.	L.G. 31338 ✓	
			ENTD. UNIT LEDGER.....	

R. 148. 2M-5-12-18.

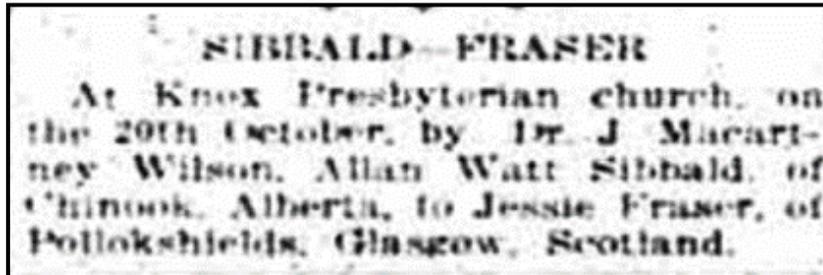
Above left: Allan attained the rank of Sgt. and was awarded the Military Medal for "acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire".

Above right: Medal card shows it was awarded 4 Dec 1918 by Corps order. It was given and received 14 May 1919 while they were in Bramshott.

The folks at the Museum of Regiments in Calgary said thousands of these Military Medals were allotted to all fighting units at the end of the war. The Battalion commander would have been able to designate men who had provided exemplary service. A letter from Allan's sister Jean mentioned that the Military Medal was given to Allan for his handling and care of the regiments' horses.

Allan's parents, John and Margaret Sibbald passed during the war. After the regiment got back to England, Allan went home to Knowes Farm to see his sister Jessie. A letter from his niece Jean years later told of her being afraid of the large man and hiding under the kitchen table, only seeing his big army boots.

During Allan's visit home he met Jessie Fraser, a widow from Glasgow. They became a couple and Jessie immigrated in 1920 to marry Allan and settle in Calgary.



SIBBALD FRASER

At Knox Presbyterian church on the 20th October by J Macartney Wilson. Allan Watt Sibbald of Chinook, Alberta, to Jessie Fraser, of Pollokshields, Glasgow, Scotland

Allan and Jessie lived at 1319 11 Ave SW Calgary. Allan worked for Co-op Dairies as a teamster. He passed away in 1959 and was interred at Burnsland Cemetery, Calgary, AB. Jessie died in Calgary in April 1967.

Allan's brother, John continued to work his farm. Following the war, he met and married my grandmother, Marietta McNeill (nee Fox). She had lost her husband at Passchendaele and came west with her children Elsie and Charlie in 1921 to visit her brothers Outhit and Perry Fox in Heathdale AB. John and Marietta had two children, Margaret and Allan while in Heathdale .

They left Heathdale in 1926 due to extended drought and went to Camrose on the Government's Free Freight Program. Free Freight was two boxcars, one for household goods and one for stock. While in Camrose the Sibbalds added three more daughters to the family, Jessie, Mary, and Audrey.

The family moved to Calgary in 1942. Initially, John worked for Harry Hays, then at the Co-op Dairies and then at what became known as Alpha Dairies until his retirement. He was laid to rest in 1957 at Valleyview Cemetery, Camrose AB. Marietta passed in 1962 and is buried in Queens Park Cemetery, Calgary AB.



The above map illustrates the Western Front Battlefields from 1914-1916, the battle lines as of June 1916, the headquarters of the Allied and German armies, and the names of fortified towns.

OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE 50TH CANADIAN BATTALION

1916 — Ancre Heights/Somme

The battalion was ordered to Ancre Heights in October. Ancre Heights was the scene of Canada's first involvement in the Battle of the Somme, which had begun on July 1st and which ultimately resulted in 25,000 Canadian casualties. Later, the 50th was ordered into the fighting, and during the battle, the battalion's non-commissioned officers (NCOs) suffered heavily. Positioned in the second wave, they were killed by hidden German machine gun posts that had been bypassed by the initial assault.

1917 – Vimy Ridge

From the Somme, the battalion was moved northward to Artois in November 1916, where they spent their winter and Christmas preparing for the offensive against Vimy Ridge. From January to March, the 4th Division's artillery provided part of the pre-battle barrage. In March, the Canadian Corps changed the commander of the battalion, as Colonel E.G. Mason was transferred to another battalion and replaced by Lieutenant-Colonel Page. In April, the Canadians made their three-day offensive, starting the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

The 50th Battalion, with the 4th Division, was attacking from the north of the ridge and were facing the 16th Bavarian Jäger Division and the 79th Reserve Division

The 50th Battalion and the rest of the 4th Canadian Division were assigned to attack Hill 145. After many attempts to capture the hill, they finally managed to take it from the Bavarian Reserve force. For the next two days, the 4th Canadian Division and 50th Battalion tried to attack the little knoll known as the Pimple. Finally, the Bavarians, low on food and having suffered many casualties, surrendered the Pimple and retreated from Vimy. The 50th, having suffered heavy casualties, were taken out of the line and rested for a while.

1917 – Lens and Passchendaele

After Vimy the 50th Battalion, along with the rest of the Canadian Corps, started preparations for the Battle of Lens. They fought the Germans in the streets of Lens and in the generating plant, which a group of Germans had fortified. After a hard-fought battle there, the Canadians gained a reputation as elite or storm troops. During this battle, they were taken out of the line for a while and put into billets. They stayed with French families in their remaining small houses.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig then ordered them into the heavy fighting at *Liévin* and Hill 65 in June and July 1917. After suffering low casualty rates, the Canadians were ordered to one of the costliest battles in the war, the Third Battle of Ypres. The Canadians suffered 16,000 dead and many more wounded, while 50th Battalion lost a quarter of their fighting men. The Canadian Corps was successful, however, capturing the village of Passchendaele. After the battle at Passchendaele, the Canadians finally got a break, and they had Christmas dinner at Château de la Haie.

During the initial stages of the German Spring offensive that was launched in early 1918, the 50th Battalion, along with the other Canadian units, was out of the line conducting training and, as a result, missed the heaviest part of the fighting.

1918 — Kaiser's Battle

During this German offensive, dedicated to the German Kaiser, the Germans managed to penetrate the Allied front lines and push them back almost all the way to Paris, but the Allies took advantage of the barrier provided by the Marne River situated just outside Paris, where they subsequently managed to halt the German advance. The Germans, wasted after having to sacrifice a large amount of their troops during the offensive, could not withstand the strong Allied push that followed and which ultimately brought about an end to the war.

1918 — Llandoverly Castle operations

In 1918, a Canadian medical ship, HMHS Llandoverly Castle was sunk by a German U-boat, even though Llandoverly Castle had a white flag put up. The Canadians, furious with the Germans, started an offensive dedicated to Llandoverly Castle. The 50th fought in Llandoverly Castle operations, during which they managed to liberate a few towns and villages.

1918 — Canada's Hundred Days

The German advance to Paris was halted by the Second Battle of the Marne. After years of stalemate on the Western Front, the war was finally coming to an end. In the last 100 days, the 50th Battalion would fight at the Battle of Amiens on August 8–10; the Second Battle of the Somme (1918), which was also known as the Battle of Arras; the Battle of Cambrai, where they helped recapture Cambrai and hold it against German attacks; the battle of Drocourt-Queant where the 50th Battalion helped to defeat the German defensive line; the Battle of the Canal du Nord, where Canada Corps, with the 50th Battalion crossed the canal; and the Battle of Valenciennes, one of the last battles of the war, where Mons was captured. By then, the Germans had retreated from France and Belgium. On November 11, on the eleventh hour, the Germans agreed to an armistice, ending the First World War.

The Battalion's Final Days

The battalion spent Christmas 1918 in Havre and then moved to the Wavre area (Overysse) outside Brussels. They spent three months in the area before returning to Bramshott 28 Apr 1919 out of Le Havre France. The battalion left for Canada on 28 May 1919 out of Plymouth via Liverpool aboard the Empress of Britain. They arrived at 10:30 PM 4 Jun 1919 at Quebec City, and their destination of Calgary on 9 June 1919.

Significant dates from Calgary to 'No Man's Land' & Back:

Pre-war journey:

- 27 Sep 1915 departed Calgary
- 27 Oct 1915 departed Halifax aboard HMT Orduna with 41 Officers & 1033 enlisted men.
- Landed in Plymouth, England
- 10 months training at Bramshott, England

Postwar journey:

- In Valenciennes, Belgium at wars' end.
- Christmas 1918 moved to Le Havre, France
- 3 months in Wavre, Belgium

- 24 Apr 1919 departed Le Havre, France
- Mustered at Bramshott
- 28 May 1919 departed for Canada 28 May 1919. Left from Plymouth via Liverpool and then Canada aboard the Empress of Britain.
- 4 June 1919 stopped in Halifax and then on to Quebec City arriving 10:30 PM.
- 9 Jun 1919 arrived home in Calgary .

Source for the Operational History of the 50th Canadian Battalion is from Wikipedia.
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/50th_Battalion_\(Calgary\),_CEF](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/50th_Battalion_(Calgary),_CEF)



Brian Glendinning has been a member of AFHS for 3 years. His interest in family history has been sparked by he and some cousins trying to figure out the stories his parents didn't tell them about. His roots go back to the UK and Pre-Confederation Nova Scotia. Brian grew up in a military family and has many family members whose military stories he is trying to collect. He was inspired to write this story after seeing the 100th Anniversary Ceremonies for Vimy Ridge, a battle his Great Uncle took part in.

NEW EDITOR REQUIRED

In October 2017, I announced that I will be stepping down from my role as *Chinook* Editor on June 30, 2018. I have enjoyed this role a great deal, but feel it is time to let someone else have the opportunity to contribute to the legacy of this outstanding publication. I will still be around to help the new editor by continuing to do the layout and design. (This will greatly cut down the time commitment for this position). If you are interested, please come and talk to me at our next general meeting, or email me at editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca

THE WINDSOCK

If you are an AFHS member, you will receive our email newsletter, *the WINDSOCK* to be notified about:

- *Upcoming topics and speakers for our monthly meetings*
- *Updates regarding the activities of our special interest groups (SIGS)*
- *Highlighted content from our website and social media*
- *Latest editions of Chinook available for download. (Chinook is only distributed via email, so keep your email address up to date.)*
- *Library closures*
-

If you are have trouble receiving the *Windsock*:

Contact our Webmaster to confirm we have your correct e-mail address. webmaster@afhs.ab.ca



INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE AFHS

AFHS is full of fascinating people and engages in numerous activities, programs, and events. This section features stories and photos about our members and the activities they participate in. Members are invited to share their thoughts, suggestions or stories at editor-chinook@afhs.ab.ca.

Genealogy & The Little Ice Age



Wayne Shephard

At the May General Meeting speaker Wayne Shephard provided members with an engaging presentation on the Little Ice Age which took place from 1300 to 1850 AD.

His talk brought together history, genealogy and geology providing listeners with a greater understanding of what their ancestors might have gone through during this challenging time. For those interested in learning more, Wayne has written a book, *Surviving Mother Nature's tests: The effects climate change and other natural phenomena have had on the lives of our ancestors*. A digital pdf copy can be ordered online at <https://www.gen-ebooks.com/surviving-mother-natures-tests-the-effects-climate-change-and-other-natural-phenomena-have-had-on-the-lives-of-our-ancestors.html>



Volunteer Appreciation!



One of the delicious cakes generously baked by Nola Gutsche

The June General Meeting was dedicated to thanking all the wonderful volunteers who give their time and talents to the AFHS!

Members were encouraged to share stories about their most scandalous ancestors or as they are more commonly known — “The Black Sheep.” We heard some fascinating tales and the storytellers were awarded with certificates for their efforts. The next two pages contain photos from the meeting and the cake and conversations afterward.



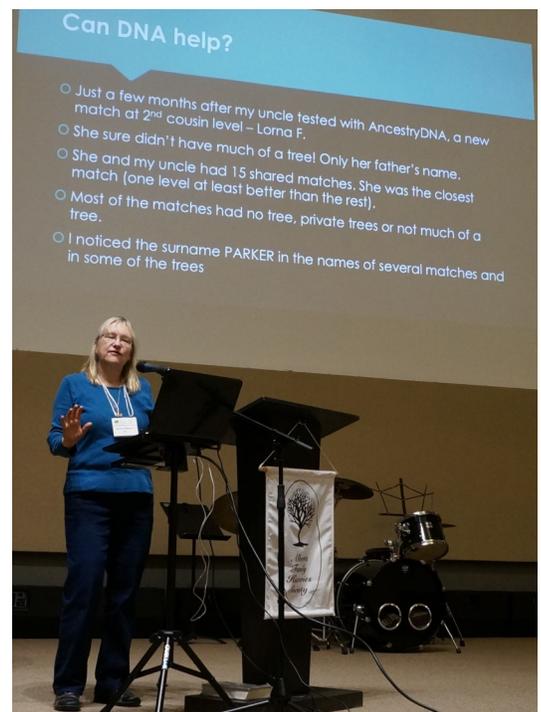
Members chatting before the meeting starts: From top to bottom: Nola Gutsche, Ulrick Haasdijk, Wayne Fuller, Lorna Hawley, Judie Riddell, Carol Lylyk, Heather Williams



AFHS President Warren Peterson welcomes members.



Earl Shultz shares his family’s “Black Sheep” tale.



Marion Peterson presents how she used DNA to solve her family’s black sheep mystery.



Louise Pannenbecker & Bev Swan



Peter McKenzie



Gary Manthorne, Judie Riddell & Christine Hayes



Warren Peterson & Heather Grant



Iola Whiteside & Harvena Chiacchia



Mabel Kiessling & Joseph Portincasa



Bob Eccleston & Michele Buhler



Reg Kober & Tracy Burr



Diane Duncan & Nola Gutsche



Leslie Dennis & Helen Backhouse



Richard Young & Mark Misunis



Kay Clarke & Barb LaFrenz



Glen Clarke & Carol Lylyk



Brenda McArthur & Earl Shultz



Dennis Laughton & Don Duncan

FamilyRoots 2018!

Beyond Ethnicity: Finding Family with DNA



AFHS is hosting **TWO** events featuring:

Blaine Bettinger, DNA Expert & Lesley Anderson, Ancestry.ca

You've probably seen the ads showing the excitement of using DNA to discover your ethnicity. This is just part of what the test results can uncover! Are you curious about how genetic DNA can be used to find ancestors or living relatives? Or maybe you have done a test and want more confidence using this somewhat daunting tool for genealogy.

FREE Presentation Monday, October 1, 2018

Doors Open: 6:30 pm

Presentations 7:00 to 9:30 pm

River Park Church, 3818 14A Street SW, Calgary

Lesley Anderson: *Ancestry Online Trees*

Blaine Bettinger: *Using Autosomal DNA to Explore Your Ancestry*

Lectures & Lunch at Fort Calgary, Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Event Hours — 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Officer's Mess Hall, Fort Calgary, 750 9 Avenue SE, Calgary

Blaine Bettinger: *Advanced 3rd Party Tools*

Using Autosomal DNA for 18th & 19th-Century Mysteries

Lesley Anderson: *Secrets and Shenanigans: How AncestryDNA Solved an Unexpected Mystery*

Buffet lunch included – soups, salads and sandwiches (Catered by Fort Calgary)

AFHS Members – \$52 (plus GST & fees) Non-Members – \$62 (plus GST & fees)

To register for these events visit www.afhs.ab.ca

WHAT'S OUT THERE?

By Linda Murray



Linda Murray is an active volunteer with the AFHS and is the Chair of the Library Committee. She loves working in the library and helping others to discover their ancestry.

Ann Tyson: A Convict from Cumberland

Between 1803 and 1852, over 73,000 convicts were transported to Van Dieman's Land which is now known as Tasmania. Sheila Lawson, a member of the Cumbria Family History Society decided to research some Cumbrians who had ended up in Tasmania. This is the story of Ann Tyson who was convicted at Carlisle in 1852 and given a 15 year sentence of transportation.

The Newsletter of the Cumbria Family History Society (2018, May), No. 167, 51-57.

Celebrating Centuries of Women

An interesting overview on the history of women through the centuries with respect to women in politics, medicine, the industrial revolution, fashion and more. Rachel Bellerby lists her top five resources for finding female ancestors and also seven places to explore women's history.

Family Tree, (2018, July), 34(10), 47-54.

Finding Connections

In 2015, when genealogist John Vanek told his parents he was taking a DNA test, they revealed that he was actually conceived by a sperm donation. John went ahead with his autosomal test at Ancestry and his mother tested as well. Using cousin matches and building family trees allowed John to determine the identity of his biological father. Read the article for further details and also for tips to use when searching for a birth parent.

Family Tree Magazine, (2018, July/August), 19(4), 54-59.

Manitoba Letters Written During the Great Depression

The Manitoba Genealogical Society is in possession of an interesting set of letters written to a Mr. Tom Davie of Brooklyn, New York in response to his query in 1930 to buy a farm in the prairies. The letters were received from various places in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and give details about land prices and the sellers themselves.

Generations, Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society (2018, March, 43(1), 7-8.

Scottish Tax Rolls Online

David A. Norris describes some of the various tax records to be found in this online collection for Scotland. There were taxes on windows, hearths, carriages, servants and even taxes on horses and dogs! The information found in these records can tell you quite a bit of information about the lives of your Scottish ancestors.

Internet Genealogy, (2018, June/July), 13(2), 31-33.

Stairways to Heaven: Searching for That Old Time Religion

If you know your ancestor's religion then you are more likely to discover details about their life especially through access to church records. In this article, Sue Lisk covers five ways to help you determine the religious or spiritual beliefs of your ancestors. She reviews the information that can be found from vital records, census records, newspapers, religious objects and personal documents and photos.

Your Genealogy, (2018, May/June), 4(2), 6-9.

The Grand Trunk Railway Disaster of 1864

Did you know that the worst train wreck in Canadian history happened in 1864? It involved a Grand Trunk Railway train carrying passengers from Quebec City to Montreal. Many of the 459 people aboard were German, Polish and Norwegian immigrants. It is believed that 99 people perished including the conductor and fireman aboard the train. Chuck Lyons tells us the details of the disaster that took place on June 29, 1864 at St. Hilaire, Quebec.

History Magazine, (2018, June/ July), 19(5), 24-26.

WHAT'S OUT THERE?

Tracing Your County Leitrim Ancestors

Although County Leitrim is only 614 square miles it is long and narrow and borders on 6 other counties. Families are mostly Gaelic and include names such as: Flynn, Gallagher, Kelly, McClancy, McLoughlin, McGowan, McKiernan, McMorrow, McSharry, Moran, O'Meehan, O'Rourke and Rooney. In this article James G. Ryan looks at church records, census substitutes, newspapers, gravestone inscriptions, estate papers and local and family histories that may help you to discover more about your Irish ancestors from County Leitrim.

Irish Roots, (2018, Second Quarter), 106(2), 10-11.

AFHS PUBLICATIONS

These publications provide information on personal data and local historical events. Many of the lists are fully searchable on the AFHS website and are available as paper prints. Prices represent reproduction costs only. All are printed in black and white on 8 ½" x 11" pages and cerlox bound. Consult the AFHS website for descriptions of these publications.

Alberta Local Histories Listing (68 pages)	\$15.00
Births, Deaths, Marriages from Calgary Newspapers 1883-89 (40 pages)	\$20.00
Births, Deaths, Marriages from Calgary Newspapers 1890-99 (205 pages)	\$30.00
Nominal Rolls of 50th Battalion, CEF, 1914-15 (45 pages; also included in Digital Library Volume V)	\$20.00
Nominal Rolls of 3rd, 12th and 13th Regiments, Canadian Mounted Rifles, CEF, 1915-16 (70 pages)	\$25.00
Obituary Index of Turner Valley Oilfields Residents, Past and Present (35 pages)	\$15.00
South Calgary High School 1915-21, 1928-29 & Calgary Normal School 1929-30 Class Lists (44 pages)	\$15.00
The Barr Colonists 1903 (38 pages)	\$15.00
The MacDonald Family of Cochrane and Mount Royal Ranch (24 pages)	\$15.00

For additional information about how to order copies of publications, consult the AFHS website: <http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/cemetery.shtml#publications> or send an email to projects@afhs.ab.ca

SOUTHERN ALBERTA CEMETERY RECORDS

The AFHS has produced 15 volumes of records from Southern Alberta cemeteries. Each volume is individually priced and available for purchase. The volumes contain monument transcriptions, burial records and many photographs of the memorials. To order click <http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/cemetery.shtml#publications>

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME I (CD)

PRICE \$30.00

This volume contains over 68,000 records from 69 cemeteries in Southern Alberta (consult the AFHS website for the complete list), including about 11,000 records from the Calgary Crematorium and 2,000 records from the Chevra Kadusha (Jewish) Society. Volume I was completed in 2001.

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME II (CD)

PRICE \$20.00

Volume II contains 24,500 records from two cemeteries on Garden Road that straddle the eastern boundary of the Calgary city limits: MD of Rockyview Garden of Peace and Mountain View Cemetery. This volume was completed in 2003.

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME III (CD)

PRICE \$20.00

This volume contains monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs from three cemeteries in Cochrane – St Andrew's, St. Mary's and Municipal – plus Westerdale Cemetery in Olds, St. Barnabas Anglican Churchyard in Calgary and two cemeteries in Hill Spring Cemeteries in Pincher Creek. Volume III was completed in 2004.

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUMES IV-X (CD)

PRICE \$25.00 (EACH)

Each of these seven CDs includes monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs from a particular area or section within Queen's Park Cemetery, Calgary. Volumes can be purchased individually or as a complete library in Volume XI. (Consult the AFHS website for a description of each volume.)

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME XIII (DVD)

PRICE \$50.00

This DVD contains monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs for military markers in Burnsland, Queen's Park, St Mary's and Union cemeteries, Calgary. Many additional photos from the Military Museum, Peacekeeping Parks, Currie Barracks, Armoury, Memorial Drive and other areas are also included. Volume XIII was completed in 2010.

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME XI (DVD)

PRICE \$50.00

This DVD includes the transcriptions, photos and burial records for all 66,655 burials in Queen's Park Cemetery individually contained in Volumes I to X. Volume XI was completed in 2009.

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME XII (DVD)

PRICE \$50.00

This DVD contains monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs for 16,634 entries in Sections A-F, H-N and P of Burnsland Cemetery, Calgary. Volume XII was completed in 2010.

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME XIV (DVD)

PRICE \$50.00

This DVD contains 13,557 entries from 20 sections of St. Mary's Cemetery and 2,391 entries from St. Mary's Pioneer Cemetery with monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs. Volume XIV was completed in 2012.

AFHS DIGITAL LIBRARY VOLUME XV (DVD)

PRICE \$50.00

This DVD contains 22,779 entries from the 20 sections within Union Cemetery, Calgary, Alberta. The data includes monument transcriptions, burial records and many memorial photographs. Union Cemetery is Calgary's oldest cemetery. Volume XV was completed in 2013.



ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY

Supporting worldwide family history research

ABOUT OUR SOCIETY

The Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS) is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to promote and encourage an interest in family history research worldwide.

To find out more about the Society please visit:
www.afhs.ab.ca

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership in the Society is open to anyone interested in family history and genealogy.

The AFHS membership period runs from January 1 to December 31. Applications received after August 1 will be applied to the following year.

Annual Membership Fees

Individual, Senior	\$40
Family	\$50
Institution	\$60

For more information on how to register as a member, please visit our website : www.afhs.ab.ca

OUR PUBLICATIONS

A list of AFHS publications and information on how to purchase copies may be found on the Society's website.
<http://afhs.ab.ca/publications/cemetery.shtml>

OUR LIBRARY

The Society's library, containing thousands of items of interest to family historians, is located in the AFHS offices and is open to members and the general public free of charge. For hours of operation, please consult the Calendar on the AFHS website or phone 403-214-1447.

CHINOOK

Chinook is published quarterly by the Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS) in October, January, April and July. *Chinook* is distributed to all AFHS members, and other family history societies and institutions around the world.

Copyright Notice: ©2017 Alberta Family Histories Society. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use of any part of *Chinook*, without permission, is prohibited. Authors retain copyright of their articles and photographs published in *Chinook*, unless otherwise noted.