



Outlook

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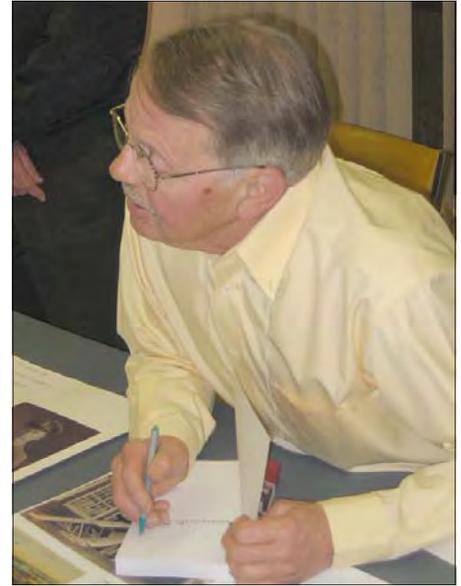
Bill Hunt's New Book *Dancing In The Sky* An Inside Look at the Wondrous & Dangerous Life of WWI Pilot Training In Canada

In the span of nineteen months beginning in 1917 flight training in Canada took the lives of one hundred and thirty-seven men. In one month alone fifteen died. In his presentation to the HCHS in March Bill Hunt told his audience that a standing joke about the Jenny, the biplane in use at the time, was that it cruised at sixty-five miles per hour, stalled at sixty-five miles per hour, and crashed at sixty-five miles per hour!

Needless to say there were plenty of crashes as the photographs and stories in *Dancing In The Sky* will attest. The photo on the cover of the book shows some of the men from the first graduating class of eighteen. The instruction had lasted six weeks. Being sent up solo after only forty-five minutes with an instructor was

not extraordinary. And once you got your wings you then had the privilege of buying your own uniform.

Wood for the airframe came from British Columbia and the crews that assembled them included six hundred women, unheard of in industry back then, whose pay rate was the same as the men's. Unskilled labour earned \$1.10 per day while a first class mechanic was paid fifty cents more. The plane's controls were primitive and if a pilot went into a spin he was pretty much done for as knowledge on how to get out of one in this amazing new world of flying had yet to be learned. But despite the hazards there was no shortage of applicants for flight training. Learning how to fly was a magnet that attracted hundreds of applicants.

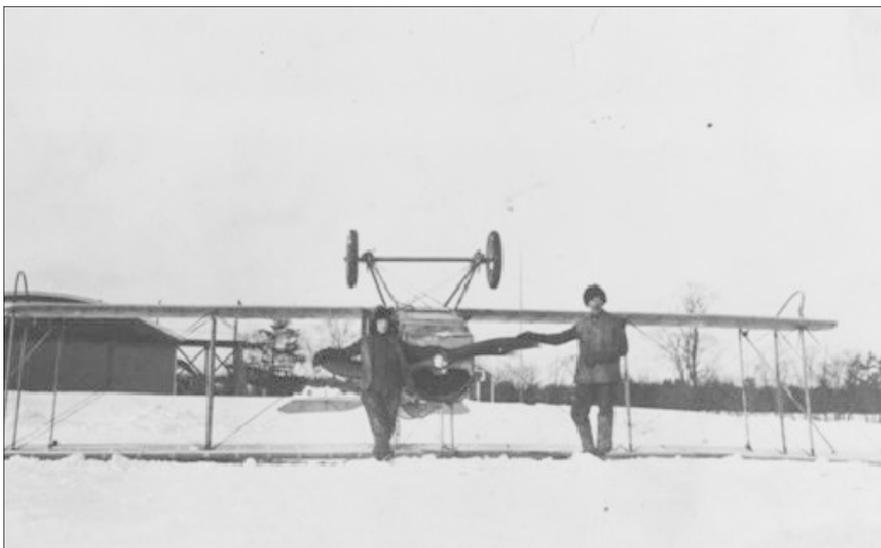


Bill Hunt autographs copies of his new book "Dancing In The Sky" at the March meeting of the HCHS. Sales have been brisk.

One of the bases of operation for the Royal Flying Corps, as the training organization was known, was the airport at Deseronto.

The book includes the photo of a Jenny that had tried to land on a Deseronto field and instead ended hung up in the branches of a tree. It was the RFC that jump-started the United States Air Force.

In the Jenny's open cockpit temperature had to be considered. As Bill, a licensed pilot himself, explained, for every thousand feet of elevation above ground level the temperature drop is three degrees F. So at 8,000 feet the temperature is 24 degrees lower. Then, of course, there is the wind chill factor on top of that. Whale oil smeared over the face helped counteract the frostbite effect, never mind that the smell of it made the pilot ill. (cont'd page 3)



Winter flying out of Deseronto suffered its share of problems. (Photo HCHS)

Dentistry Funerals Hats and Carpentry, Watches Boots Books and Stationery ~ Advertisements from a Bygone Era

48 HASTINGS DIRECTORY.

HENRY PEARSON,
 Manufacturer and Dealer in
Hats, Caps, Furs & Straw Goods,
 Keeps constantly on hand and makes to order, all kinds of SILK, FUR, and WOOL HATS. Fashions as adopted by the Board of Trade,—introduced the Second Saturday of March in each Year.
 Ladies' & Gentlemen's Furs Altered. The only Practical Hatter in Belleville.
STORE—FRONT-ST. (OPPOSITE PATTERSON'S FOUNDRY.)

AXE AND EDGE TOOL FACTORY,
 FRONT STREET, BELLEVILLE.
A. E. PROCTOR,
 Respectfully informs his friends and Merchants generally, that he still continues to manufacture AXES, and EDGE TOOLS of a superior quality, and can supply them at very low rates.
 SUPPORT HOME MANUFACTURE, when you can obtain as good an article, and at as cheap a rate, as can be obtained in foreign markets.

JAMES GEEN,
UNDERTAKER,
 Masonic Hall,
BELLEVILLE.
 Parties supplied with every thing required for Interments.

FUNERALS CONDUCTED,
 EITHER IN TOWN OR THE COUNTRY.

HASTINGS DIRECTORY. 97

R. KENNEDY.
CARPENTER, JOINER,
AND STAIRCASE AND HANDRAIL BUILDER,
 ANN STREET, BELLEVILLE.
 Will furnish every description of Stairs and Handrails, with Newel Post, or Curtail Steps. Plans and Specifications furnished on reasonable terms, and Estimates given for general purposes.

FLOUR,  **PORK,**

And General Provision Store.

GEORGE McADIE,
COMMISSION, LAND,
AND GENERAL AGENT,
 MILL STREET, BELLEVILLE.
 Satisfactory references given if required.

HASTINGS DIRECTORY. 80

DENTISTRY

G. V. N. RELYEA,
 Office in the Victoria Buildings.

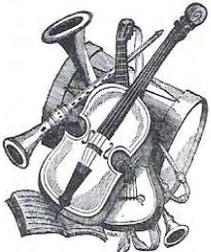
MR. RELYEA, resident Dentist of Belleville for twenty years, gives his exclusive attention to the practice of his profession, visits the City of New-York yearly, making himself acquainted with **EVERY IMPROVEMENT,** and adopts such as are for the benefit and comfort of his patients. From long experience and close application Mr. R. claims a thorough knowledge of his profession, and no work will be allowed to leave his office unless it gives entire satisfaction.

CLOCKS, WATCHES & JEWELRY.
ANGUS McFEE,
 Begs to inform the public that he is prepared to accommodate customers and others with the best and latest styles of **CLOCKS, WATCHES, and all sorts of JEWELRY,** at the cheapest rates. He is also prepared to **REPAIR WATCHES, CLOCKS, &c.**
 At the shortest notice, and in the most workmanlike manner. His Shop is **NEARLY OPPOSITE FANNING'S HOTEL, FRONT STREET, BELLEVILLE,** where he expects to remain, and by close and careful attention to business, to secure the confidence of the public. All articles left for repairs, will be safely kept, and returned to their owners when called for. Give him a call.



46 HASTINGS DIRECTORY.

R. A. BECKET,
BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER
 FRONT STREET, BELLEVILLE.



STATIONERY, FAMILY & POCKET BIBLES
 TESTAMENTS.
SCHOOL BOOKS,
 MUSIC, MELODEONS,
Stereoscopes and Views
 MAGAZINES, PERIODICALS,
 And everything in the Trade, WHOLESALE and RETAIL.

BOOTS AND SHOES.  **RUBBERS, TRUNKS, &c.**

G. G. GERMAN,
 DEALER IN
BOOTS AND SHOES,
 Belleville, C. W.

G. G. G. keeps a general assortment of Penitentiary and other Boots and Shoes, suited to the wants of his numerous customers in Town and Country, and purchasers will find his Stock second to none in quantity, quality, and price. Youths', Misses' and Children's Boots and Shoes, of the best quality, sold very low.—TERMS CASH.
G. G. GERMAN.

Among the thousands of photographs at the Hastings Heritage Centre are these of local advertisements, circa 1860s. The printing is small but here are some examples of their content.

The dentist, G.V.N. Relyea, keeps up with the latest innovations by visiting New York City every year and states that no work will be allowed to leave his office unless it gives entire satisfaction.

Angus McFee will repair watches and clocks on the shortest notice at his shop nearly opposite Fanning's Hotel on Front Street, Belleville.

Henry Pearson's fur, silk and wool hat fashions have been adopted by the Board of Trade. G.G. German "Keeps an assortment of Penitentiary and other Boots and Shoes suited to the wants of his numerous customers."

For some reason R.A. Becket, bookseller and stationer on Front Street, displays an array of musical instruments in advertising his merchandise.

And Mr. A.E. Proctor continues to supply axes and edge tools of superior quality at low prices. He also encourages shoppers to buy locally. Support home manufacture, he says, when you can obtain as good an article, and at as cheap a rate, as can be obtained in foreign markets.

Coming Events

PEC BUS TOUR

The bus tour departs from Bayview Mall at 8:30 A.M., Saturday, May 9th. It will be a look at Prince Edward County through the eyes of geologist Bob Ross who will explain some of the County's many geological features. Tickets will go on sale at Greenley's Book Store April 1st. The price is \$65.00/person and includes lunch. The trip will include a tour of the Picton Cement Plant and Bob will point out where diamonds can be found and how they are formed. Bill Hunt will add some local colour regarding murders, gambling dens, booze cans, and other uplifting aspects of County history.

BELLEVILLE MCFARLANDS

A documentary celebrating the 50th anniversary of the hockey club's winning of the World Championship in Prague, Czechoslovakia will premier at the Empire Theatre on April 4th at 7:00 PM. Visit www.bellevillemcfarlands.ca for more information.

LOYALISTS *(see page 4)*

Players Identified!



In the March issue of *Outlook* we published the above 1908 photograph with the comment that we did not know the names of the players. Well, the mystery has been solved.

One of our readers, John Geen, contacted *Outlook* and identified each of the nine men shown above. In the front are (left) Jean Ilsey and Cliff

Burrows; middle row (left) Chamberlain Spangdenberg, Chaucer Eliot, Billy Thompson and Ernest "Peg" Geen (John Geen's father); back row (left) W.P Allen, Dr. Gilbert and Jack Rathburn. They played for the Bank of Montreal team. Our thanks to John for putting names to the faces of this century old photograph which was donated to the Heritage Centre by Colonel E.A. Geen.

Dancing In The Sky

(cont'd from page 1)

The official launch of the book was celebrated March 7, 2009 at the Deseronto Public Library. Close to 150 people turned out to hear Bill's presentation. Every copy of the book Greenley's Book Store had brought to the event was sold.

Dancing In The Sky, published by Dundurn Press, was a decade in the making. It is filled with great stories about personalities and events from a colourful era of our past and contains an extensive index. It is a timeless tribute to those who volunteered their services in the Great War.

Hands In Your Pockets?

In March 1871 it was reported in the local newspaper, *The Daily Chronicle*, that Thomas Mehon, John Mehon and James Sarsfield, having been discovered on the corner with their hands in their pockets, were fined a dollar or ten days in jail - to jail they went!

On the other hand a farmer from Thurlow who had been found drunk and noisy was let off as it was his first offence.

And lastly, Sidney Savage was charged by Edmund Barrett with back-biting and got \$5.00 or twenty days. Sidney Savage aforesaid was also charged by James Barrett with biting his fin-

ger and hitting him over the head with a soda pop bottle; this little amusement cost him \$10.00 or thirty days.

Moira River Rising

On April 19, 1870 The Daily Ontario reported that "the Moira River was rising steadily since yesterday, having gone up by several inches." For thirty-seven and a half cents, paid in advance, you could send the newspaper to your friends for three months. Single copies five cents.

Last English Born Canadian Prime Minister

In the March issue of *Outlook* we posed the question "Who was the last Canadian Prime Minister born in England?"

The answer is John Turner. He was born in 1929 in Richmond, Surrey, England. His father, an Englishman and gunsmith by trade, died when Turner was three years old and his mother, a Canadian, returned to her home town of Rossland, BC in 1932.

Turner, a lawyer, is a graduate of the University of BC and a Rhodes Scholar. His term of office as Prime Minister was short-lived, running from June 30, 1984 to September 17 of that same year.

There is a story that once while on vacation with his wife in Barbados they noticed someone offshore struggling against the undertow running out from the beach. Turner, a strong swimmer, plunged in and rescued the struggling man who turned out to be none other than John Diefenbaker! You can check out this story and other biographical items about Turner online.

Did You Know?

Sidney Township was named in 1787 after Thomas Townshend, 1st Viscount Sidney, British secretary of state for the home department.

From the Heritage Atlas of Hastings County

The Belleville Reminiscences of E.S. Vandewater ~ Part 4

In the spring of 2008 the Historical Society received a letter from Richard J. Moran of Redford, Missouri. Attached to his letter were reminiscences of life in the Belleville area written by his great uncle Edgar Smith Vandewater who was born in Sidney Township in 1876. Here is Part 4, the last part of Vandewater's story.

As a lad over sixty years ago I was baptized at St. Thomas' Anglican Church on Church Street. Going east from the church was the Urquhart residence, and then Harry Ackerel, Veterinary Surgeon.

Going south on Pinnacle Street from Bridge Street was Lake's Livery Stable, then Alfred's Planing Mill, then a coal and wood yard and Cronk's Livery Stable. Going further south to the corner of Front and Dundas was Tisdale's Boat House, Allens, Downeys and Shuster's Coal Yard, then the Mary Ethel Ferry Boat Dock. This ferry ran back and forth to Rossmore as there was no bay bridge then.

The wharf was a busy spot, with the following boats having regular bay trips and lots of excursions: Annie Lake, Varuna, Nellis Cuthbert, Ella Ross and Alexandria. There were also many expensive yachts and large lake-going cargo ships.

My first school experience was at Octavia Street School. Miss Harold was my teacher and Jessie Jack, principal. That was seventy-two years ago. As a boy of eleven going to Queen Victoria School on Church Street we celebrated Queen Victoria's 50th year of reign (1887) when all the scholars assembled in their respective classrooms, then led by our teachers marched north to Sam Ratalack's sports field, it being on the north side of Queen from William to Ann Streets. Mr. Ratalack was a bicycle enthusiast and had a track there for racing. We were assembled on the bleachers, sang patriotic songs, listened to speeches and saw the bicycle races. I remember that Bert Cooper was the outstanding bicycle rider. All bicycles back then had front wheels of about 40 inches high and rear wheels about 12 inches.

In closing I might say that I have lived on the West Hill and later on East Hill. I could cite many changes on most every street in Belleville. Hoping your readers enjoy what I have written as I have enjoyed writing it, and as everyone knows after reaching a certain age you love to reminisce and live on the past.
E.S. Vandewater

LOYALIST SETTLEMENT EXPERIENCE

Festivities at Heritage Park, Adolphustown for the 225th anniversary of the Loyalists in the Province of Ontario get underway at 1:00 PM on Thursday June 11th and run until Sunday afternoon, June 14th. See the manned bateaux, hear the guns and smell the black powder! For all the details visit www.uel.ca.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Speaker
Jennifer Bunting

Topic
Episcopalian Methodist
Conference In Napanee, 1874

Monthly meetings start at 7:30 and are held in the Auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre, 370 Front Street, Belleville

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR MAY ISSUE OF
OUTLOOK IS APRIL 30, 2009

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Hastings County Historical Society is based at the old township office in Cannifton. Please address mail to General Delivery, Cannifton, ON, K0K 2K0. Outlook is published in January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November for the friends and members of the Hastings County Historical Society. The editor, Bill Kennedy, can be reached at 613-962-5991, or email [<kennedypec@aol.com>](mailto:kennedypec@aol.com)

HCHS MEMBER ADDRESS