



Outlook

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The Lumber Barons of Trenton The Gilmour Years

By Bill Kennedy

The Gilmour Lumber Company, once upon a time reportedly the largest in the world, was the subject of documentary filmmaker Sean Scally's hour-long *Lumberbarons: The Gilmour Years* presentation at the Society's October public event. From its modest beginnings in Scotland in the late 18th century, it expanded to Canada, and in 1852, began operations in Trenton. The company, Scally says, made Trenton the city it is today.

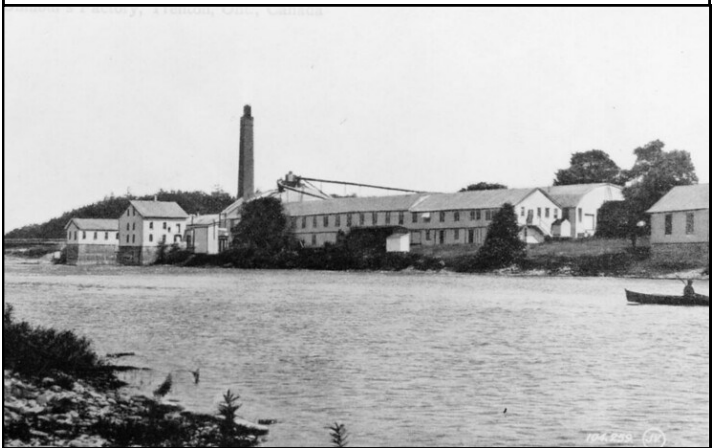


Tuesday night's speaker was Sean Scally.

Photo by Bill Kennedy

Through interviews with local historians, old film clips and excellent narration, the magnitude and sheer audacity of the twenty-nine-year-old David

Gilmour Trenton enterprise is brought to life. In its heyday it had the capacity to produce over 800,000 board feet of lumber per day. Trees, especially pine, felled in the Algonquin Park region had to make it through some four hundred and fifty kilometers of complicated waterways until they reached the Trent River and were floated to the Trenton destination. In one particularly difficult passage, logs were floated thirty-six meters "uphill" and then eighteen hundred more meters overland in a sluice known as the tramway in order to get them to a watershed that would take them south to Trenton. At the Trenton mill the lumber would then be processed, loaded onto ships and transported down the St. Lawrence for markets in Eastern Canada and Europe.



Reproduction of a Valentine postcard showing the Gilmour lumber factory in Trenton, Ontario. CABHC HC02758

The tramway was expensive to operate. It required a hundred men to service the various pieces of machinery. It is said that a log cut at Canoe Lake in Algonquin Park where Gilmour had a mill operation might not reach the Trenton mill until two or three years later. Logs would frequently rot or simply sink after

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such long exposure to water. To this day evidence of that lost timber can be seen in a number of the Park's lakes.

The Canoe Lake mill closed at the turn of the century. In 1905 David Gilmour moved with his family to Buffalo, New York, where he purchased a door manufacturing business. In 1909 his Trenton mill was demolished. For a detailed accounting of this magnificent timber saga, read *When Giants Fall: The Gilmour Quest for Algonquin Pine* by Gary Long and Randy Whiteman. You can find it online. It is a Canadian story of epic proportions.



The Mighty Spits

By Brock Kerby

After the success of their documentary In the Footsteps of a Hero: The Stewart Kerby Story, described in the June Outlook, Brock Kerby and Brian Long of War Hero Documentaries are finalizing their second local war hero documentary about two pilots from the Second World War, Floyd (Bud) Loveless of Deloro and Mackenzie Reeves of Madoc.

Bud Loveless joined the air force like many thousands of other Canadians. One of his local buddies, Mackenzie Reeves, also joined, and both received their flying wings at Uplands, Ontario on March 19, 1943. After training, the pair of local airmen were sent to different units. Bud flew photo reconnaissance spitfire planes with no cannon, no guns and only his

luck in the hands of a wing man. He served with the 414 Squadron, attached to 39 Reconnaissance Wing taking part in many a daring mission. On one of those missions he was hit by flak near Hamburg, Germany. He managed to escape the spitfire plane, but was captured by SS German forces. He was injured from a blow to the head from a rifle, and transported to a POW camp near Pinneberg, Germany. Three weeks later he was liberated by the Russians, and managed to make his way back to Canadian soil.

Bud and his wife, Rita, owned and operated a very successful butcher shop in Marmora. They raised a family and had many grandchildren. Justin Black, a grandson of Floyd Russell Loveless is portraying his grandfather in the forthcoming documentary. Sadly, Bud Loveless passed away on October 7, 1990.

Mackenzie Reeves of Madoc served in the 403 RAF Squadron in the European theatre as a spitfire pilot. On March 28, 1945, while flying Spitfire XVI SM302, he was hit by flak and radioed his squadron mates that he was going to bail out. He crashed before being able to do so. Another account says that after he was attacked by enemy planes, he radioed that his arm had been blown off and that he was going to ride the plane in as he could not bail out and he could not fly the plane. He wished them well and said it was an honour to fly with them. Bud Loveless was in the sky when his friend radioed in distress. Bud took Mac's death hard, as Mac could have gone home, but he decided to follow through to the end of the war because his best friend, Bud, was still serving.

War Hero Documentaries has re-created scenes using



Deloro, Ontario in 1942, Left, Mackenzie Reeves, middle Rita Loveless and far right Floyd Russell "Bud" Loveless. Second photo recreation, Left Brock Kerby, middle Annette Snow and Justin Black portraying his grandfather

photos, some of which belonged to Bud Loveless. The photo on the left taken in Deloro, Ontario in 1942 shows (from the left): Mackenzie Reeves, Rita Loveless and Floyd Russell (Bud) Loveless. The photo re-creation on the right shows (from the left): Brock Kerby, Annette Snow of Belleville and Justin Black portraying his grandfather Bud Loveless.

There are so many local heroes from the Second World War. Their stories need to be told so they will never be forgotten. As Canadians, I think we need to be prouder and honour these heroes. There is only a small number of Second World War vets left and they are up there in age. Please help thank them for what they have done for us. They truly are the greatest generation!



Reminiscing

By Lois Foster

I've been a member of the Hastings County Historical Society and the Archives for so many years that I'm going to reminisce this month. Early in 1977, I was asked by Elaine Preston to join a group planning to research all the buildings in Belleville pre-1880. This was Elaine's plan, and she quietly but surely led us through the research and compilation of two booklets about Belleville's historic buildings. We drew straws. My area was Dundas Street to Queen Street, and I decided to start interviewing owners about their homes. I soon realized that it was up to me to do the research.

With Gerry Boyce's help, we were introduced to the Canadiana room in the Corby Library and to the Land Registry Office. Gerry had been among the stalwart leaders of the Hastings County Historical Society since 1957. Whenever I couldn't find information, I'd ask Gerry, and he could tell me and often leave a copy of his copious notes in my mailbox. There is good reason for the public area of the Community Archives to be named The Gerry Boyce Reading Room.

A wonderful source of information turned out to be a group of elderly friends interested in helping by reminiscing about their lives in Belleville. Miss Stewart Masson invited me to afternoon tea to meet her friends. It was great fun! I scribbled notes at first, but soon realized I should just listen. The hostess asked, "Helen, do you remember Sir Gilbert Parker's funeral?" They all had a good laugh; then Miss Masson

explained. Former Mayor W. C. Mikel had planned this momentous funeral in every detail to be the grandest ever. The "girls" went to the church early to get a front seat in the gallery. Sir Gilbert was already in his closed casket at the front of the empty church. As they sat waiting, a dog walked up the aisle and over to the casket, lifted his leg and peed on the bier and wandered back out of the church.

Miss Masson remembered all her mother had told her about Belleville and all she had ever known, too. I learned a lot about the houses in my designated area when I drove her along the streets, stopping to hear about the homes. On George Street, her mother had told her, lived two very poor but very proud sisters. The ladies living in the area invited them for tea or lunch but only one sister would arrive each time. This provided an excuse to send a basket of food home for the other sister.

Helen Fraleck was completely deaf. When she invited Elaine and me to her home, we wrote notes to her. Most of the time we listened to her historical tales. Once when she went to the kitchen to get our tea and her delicious cheese cookies, her cat escaped to the parlour where Elaine and I were sitting. It jumped up on the grand piano, made a giant leap to the fireplace mantel, leaving us in a panic. On either end of the mantel was a delicate lustre with a full complement of hanging prisms. Fortunately, the cat knew how to maneuver with ease.

Belleville Assessment Books had their beginning in 1853. Our committee needed to search those books to record the history of the early buildings, but some years before, the city had decided to send a truckload of the earliest Assessment books to the Archives of Ontario in Toronto. The earliest books left in Belleville were for 1864, '68, '69, '71, '72 and half of '81. These books and books from 1884 up to 1900 were piled on the floor of the vault in City Hall under the tower. To access these books, I had to look through them while down on my knees on the cement floor, making notes in the same position. Not only was it an inconvenience, but in a loud voice an employee would walk by and say, "Who left this door open?" One day, Mayor Zegouras stopped by and offered to find a desk and chair for me. He found a small typewriter desk and a wooden chair and asked if there was anything more I needed. I said that I wouldn't mind a window, but of course that just sent him down the hall laughing.

When our group had prepared the research, and Elaine and I were deciding how to arrange the booklet, we met upstairs in the library at Glanmore Muse-



Archives volunteers at the Hastings Heritage Centre in Cannifton, 2006

CABHC 2017-97

um. One day we had been working about an hour when we smelled smoke. Elaine ran downstairs to find help, and I followed the smell of smoke into the northeast bedroom where a travelling display had been set up. I had to zigzag around the panels to the north window drape which was charring and red and smoldering and yank the light plug out of the wall. With my foot, I stamped the drape against the wall until the fire was out. I think the visitors to the display had brushed against the drape in the crowded room until it got too close to the wall socket. Elaine returned with help, but we just packed up our belongings and went home. We had had more than enough excitement for one day.

When the McIntosh-Ridley building on South Front Street was threatened with demolition, the members of our little research group, still interested, joined the newly formed groups, Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) and Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO). One of the projects planned by LACAC to make the citizens aware of our built heritage was date plaques for historic buildings. This included the very nice iron plaque plus a scroll with the printed history of the building. Very few wanted them. I was sent out to visit the businesses on the west side of Front Street. When I walked with confidence into the City Hotel expecting to go to the reception desk, I stepped right into the barroom. There was no reception area! So, in my heels and power suit and carrying my briefcase, I squared my shoulders and walked across the room to

the bar to explain to the bartender that I'd like to talk to the manager. The manager easily saw my plight, and bought a date plaque.

After a few years, Beth Green and I were the last of the group and very glad to settle down, relax and do research at Gerry Boyce's Archives in the old Town Hall in Cannifton.



Soldier from Marlbank Killed at Vimy Ridge

By John Lowry

On the 10th May, 1917, John and Lizzie Henderson, whose farm was on the Hogs Back Road by Lime Lake, received the telegram that all parents who have a son or daughter serving in time of war dreaded. The tersely worded message informed them that their son, Pte. William Arthur Henderson, had been killed in action on the 9th of April during the Canadian Corp's attack on Vimy Ridge. Pte. Henderson was just 30 years of age.

The couple received a letter shortly after from Capt. Edward N. Gilliat, the adjutant of their son's regiment, the 16th Battalion Canadian Scottish CEF, stating that "The Commanding Officer wishes me to convey to you his sincere sympathy on the death of your son, No. 105644 Pte. Henderson, W.A. who was

killed on the 9th.” The letter, dated April 19th, further stated that, “he was buried near where he fell on the battlefield, and when it is possible a cross will be erected to his memory.”



Pte. William Arthur Henderson

William Henderson, or “Art” as he was more commonly referred to by his family, had been born near Belleville, and at an early age moved with his family to the eastern edge of Hastings County where his father had purchased a farm that straddled the border with Lennox and Addington County. The farm property, which rested on the shores of Lime Lake just south of Marlbank, was home to Art, the Hendersons’ oldest son,

and seven siblings. In 1907, like so many young men of his time, he headed west where he resided with his maternal uncle Donald McMullen on a farm near Avonhurst, Saskatchewan. When the British Empire went to war, Art answered the call of King and Empire, and in December 1915 enlisted with the 68th Battalion (Regina) CEF.

Once in England his unit was broken up for reinforcements and Pte. Henderson was transferred to the 16th Bn CEF. He would serve with the Canadian Scottish for nine months and participated in the battles of the Somme, Pozieres, Flers-Courcelette, Thiepval, Ancre Heights, Ancre and Arras.

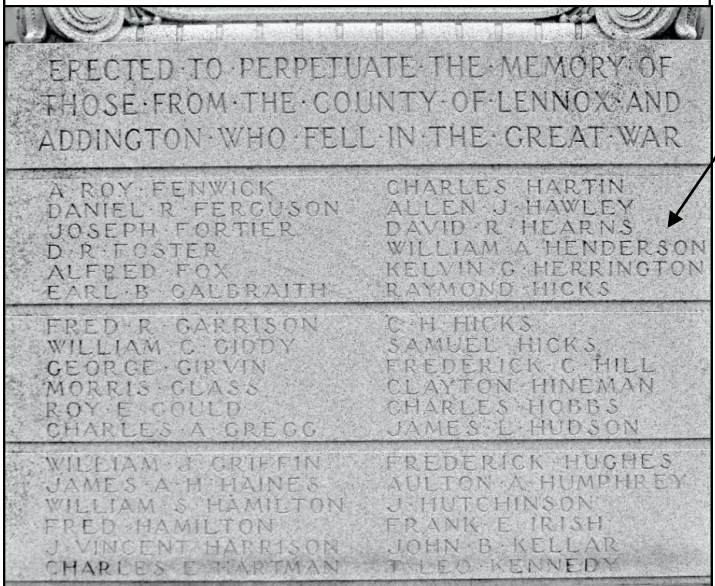
When his unit joined in the attack on Vimy, Art was in the forefront of the action. He would survive the initial assault only to fall victim to enemy machine gun fire as the Germans retreated from the ridge. As was common practice at the time, he and a number of his comrades also killed in the attack that morning, were hastily interred in a bomb crater, which was meant to act as a temporary grave.

Pte. Henderson was one of 3,600 men killed or who died of wounds later in the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Today, Pte. Henderson’s name appears on the Lennox and Addington County Cenotaph, located in Napanee, along with 162 other soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the First World War. The imposing monument, constructed of Barre-Vermont granite, is situated in front of the county courthouse portico on Thomas Street E.

The human cost of the First World War was stagger-

ing. The conflict would exact a toll of approximately 40 million military and civilian casualties, including 20 million fatalities. The cost to the British Empire and its Commonwealth allies has been estimated to be in the range of 875,000 killed.



Panel on Lennox and Addington War Cenotaph with Pte. Henderson’s name

Initial estimates of Canada’s casualties included close to 61,000 fatalities and another 172,000 wounded. In fact, more than 66,000 Canadians died in action, or as a direct result of their wounds after the war. This was at a time when the young Dominion’s population was just under 8 million. Among those killed in action were many who have no known grave to this day.

Rudyard Kipling penned the following to be inscribed on the war cenotaph in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, which was unveiled in September 1924.

“From little towns in a far land we came,

To save our honour and a world aflame.

By little towns in a far land we sleep,

And trust those things we won to you to keep.”

With a staggering number of battlefield casualties, the British were faced with the daunting task of locating, burying and keeping burial records of the fallen soldiers. A commission, that would eventually be titled the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, was officially established in May of 1917. Both during and after the war, the commission was in charge of gathering up the bodies of our fallen heroes and ensuring their proper interment. Once the guns fell silent in November of 1918, the work began in ear-

nest of recovering the dead scattered indiscriminately across the former battlefields, often in temporary makeshift graves. Specialized recovery units spread out across the shell-torn fields gathering bodies in to cemeteries. By 1927, 500 cemeteries with 400,000 headstones had been established all along the line of the former Western Front. Work, much of it entailing the erection of suitable monuments to honour the war dead, would continue until 1932.

Having paid a heavy price in the war, Canada was determined to raise a suitable monument to those who had answered their country's call to arms. After a twelve-month-long competition, the design of Walter Allward was chosen. Construction on the imposing memorial, which was constructed of concrete and Seget limestone, began on a parcel of land atop Vimy Ridge donated to Canada by a grateful French government. The edifice would take fifteen years to complete. In 1936 the Canadian National Vimy Memorial was officially dedicated in front of an audience of over six thousand which included many veterans who not quite twenty years before had clambered up the slopes of the very same ridge under the hail of machine gun and shellfire.

A feature of the monument, the names of those "missing, presumed dead" carved into the monument's ramparts, was a late addition to the design and were only carved into the ramparts in the early 1930s.

Given the often chaotic conditions of trench warfare, not all of the bodies of our fallen soldiers were located and given an appropriate burial. Of the 61,000 Canadian casualties, almost 20,000 remained either unidentified or simply missing. Inscribed on the Vimy Memorial are the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who went missing in France, and a further 6,994 names of missing Canadians are carved on the Menin Gate at Ypres, Belgium.



Sign that appears at junction of Hogs Back Road and Lime Lake Road where Henderson farm was located



Fire Prevention in 1860s Belleville

By Richard Hughes

Fire! Fire! A word to drive panic right into your heart. But imagine in the 1860s, with old wooden structures, coal and wood fires in every home, long stretches of stove pipes and chimneys filled with soot and a fire department powered by horses. The folks in Quinte might have heard of the Great London Fire of 1666 which destroyed 13,200 homes and 87 churches. They would not be aware that in just a few years, the Great Fire of Chicago in 1871 would destroy 9 square kilometres of homes and leave 100,000 homeless. Fire was a daily and a palpable threat to every resident of Quinte.

The Town fathers were very much aware of the dangers and they enacted extensive and detailed laws to minimize the risks of fire and to mobilize the whole population when one occurred. When a fire was discovered, all Church sextons were required to ring their bells for fifteen minutes; every person between 15 and 60 was required to assist; and all "carters" must draw water to the fire.

Fire prevention was critical. The location of stove pipes was strictly regulated as to where they could pass through walls and roofs. The handling of hot materials was also very restricted. Lighted coals could not be carried through the streets unless in a covered iron vessel; a lighted candle could not be carried into a stable; no lighted pipes or cigars allowed in a mill, workshop, stable or barn.

For buildings with two stories, it was required to have a scuttle on the roof and must be built with a ladder or staircase leading to the roof. Even single-storied buildings must have a ladder to the roof plus another ladder on the roof to the peak.

The town maintained a Chimney Viewer who was required to visit every house every six months to offer his chimney sweep services.

The Fire Chief and Assistant was named by Town Council from names put forward by the fire companies. Finally, the firemen were to be paid at the rate of \$6 per year.

While times have obviously changed so much in the past 160 years, it is interesting to note that the basics remain the same: a strong focus by our Fire Department on fire prevention and municipally, extensive regulatory safety provisions in building codes.



Armistice Day in Belleville, 1919

By Laurel Bishop

On the first anniversary of Armistice Day in Belleville, a reporter referred to “the shadow of the Great War” still hanging over the city, but pronounced that “the cloud has begun to show its silver lining.” On the evening of Tuesday, November 11, 1919, an Armistice Celebration took place at the Belleville armouries. Estimates of visitors ranged from 3,000 to 4,000 people – men, women and many children. Three items were on the agenda: the commemoration of Armistice Day, support for the Victory Loan Campaign to aid in the rehabilitation of returned soldiers and the presentation of a silver cup to the Belleville G.T.R. baseball team, winners of the Ontario Amateur Baseball League for 1919. Belleville was ready to celebrate!

With Mayor Platt and Acting Mayor Woodley absent, it devolved upon ex-Mayor Ketcheson to preside. He spoke to the crowd of the significance of Armistice Day. W. B. Deacon, County Chairman, made an appeal for the Victory Loan, informing the audience that Belleville and the County of Hastings were both doing well, although Belleville needed an

additional \$125,000 to meet its goal by Saturday night.

Next came the presentation of the silver trophy to the G.T.R. baseball team, the cup a gift from the former *Toronto News* to the winner of the amateur baseball provincial championship. It stood over two feet in height positioned on a large ebony base. A number of small shields were attached to that base, and it was upon them that the winning team’s name would be engraved each year. The trophy’s inscription read: “The Toronto Daily News Senior Challenge Cup Ontario Amateur Championship. Presented to the Ontario Baseball Amateur Association by the Toronto Daily News, 1918.” One shield was already on the cup and read: “1918 won by Hillcrest.”

Each G.T.R. team member was next presented by Alderman Hanna with an open face gold watch, a present from the city: Thomas H. Fegg, Manager; Harry Pringle, Business Manager; W. J. Thomson, Asst. Manager; Fred Goyer, Pitcher; William J. Mills, Catcher; Walter Gerow, 1st Base; James Smith, 2nd Base; Allan G. Meagher, Utility Infielder; Vernon Weir, Short Stop; Joseph Kelleher, 3rd Base; Samuel Symons, Left Fielder; Wilfred Ross, Centre Fielder; Allan C. Morden, Right Fielder; John Casey, Outfielder; Harry Whalen, Outfielder; Douglas Simmons, Infielder. The inscription on the watches read:



This was the GTR baseball team, winners of the Ontario Amateur Baseball Championship in 1919. The Armistice was mentioned and a Victory Loan Dance was held -- all in the Armouries. CABHC 2019-019

“Presented to G.T.R. baseball team, Amateur Champions of Ontario, 1919 by the Citizens of Belleville.” The players bowed. The crowd cheered.

Then Mr. P. F. Brockel of the Y.M.C.A. gave each of the men a Y.M.C.A. membership for one year, telling them that Belleville appreciated their work on the team. Manager Thomas Fegg then expressed the team’s thanks, adding that “this was an opportune time to give athletics a boost. ... In Belleville we have two playgrounds which were appreciated, but we need two more. ... Athletics advertise a city abroad. Belleville now has a slogan—a bigger and better Belleville and things look bright for us.”

The rest of the evening until midnight was occupied with dancing. At 11:30, an elimination dance was begun, the winners receiving a Victory Bond worth \$50. The National Anthem was played, and the Armistice Celebration for 1919 came to an end.



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Hastings County Historical Society Presentation

Topic: The Colourful and Amazing History of Deseronto: In the late 1800s the village of Deseronto was a thriving commercial hub with major business activity, busy railroads and some colourful personalities. Researcher Bobby-Jo Morris will reveal how Deseronto contributed to the economic development of the area.

Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Maranatha

100 College Street West, Belleville
An Entertaining Night Out—Bring a Friend

(Please use rear parking lot and back entrance and go to Meeting Room.)

Member Designation