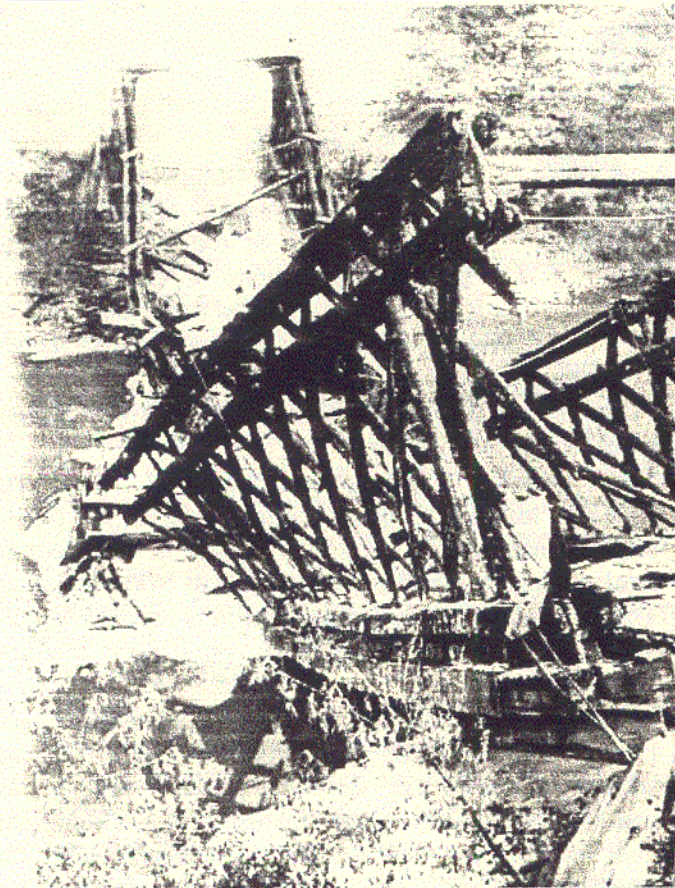


QUEBEC HERITAGE NEWS

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Fifty years ago a Canadian soldier waited for treatment after a night patrol during the Korean War. Last week one of Quebec's remaining 22 covered bridges was destroyed by vandals. For more on both, look inside.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

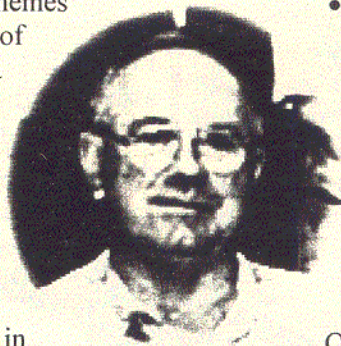
Search for military heritage is endless

A few months ago we decided to utilize broad themes to program a significant part of the content of each of these newsletters. This issue puts a focus on military history and once again we find it opens up so much possible content that we have to select bits and pieces from here and there, leaving us with a series of samples and suggesting that in future there are almost endless sub-themes to explore related to our military history.

While we did deliberately time this to be in advance of Remembrance Day observations in November, we had not thought of the September 11th tragedies and the way in which they led to our current most visible military involvements touching us once again.

It is said most of us as individuals have some association with one or more military events which in some way has shaped our lives. Certainly, it is true of our diverse anglo-Quebec community and with this in mind I set out to list in point form some of those which have had significant links and impacts, large and small, beginning with the long series of English-French wars and their impact on North American history:

- Cross territory Indian raids from New France into New England stimulating return raids, most famously the Rogers raid down the St. Francis River.
- These ongoing conflicts being a major push by New England colonies for England to conquer and overthrow the French regime.
- The Jacobite rebellion and its defeat at Culloden in April 1746 with disastrous effects on the Scottish highlanders, stimulating beginnings of Scottish emigration.
- Defeat of French at Quebec in 1759, including use of Scottish regiments, of whom some were disbanded and became Quebec Settlers.
- Arnold expedition from New England into Quebec and its failure.
- American Revolution and its aftermath sending both British loyalists and other Americans into Quebec. In particular these immigrants laid the groundwork and framework for what became known as the Eastern Townships, but also settling other areas of Quebec from the Gatineau to the Gaspé.
- Napoleonic wars leave their mark in Quebec in place and street names; e.g. Waterloo, Wellington, etc.
- War of 1812-14 with anglo-Quebecers involved in a variety of ways and U.S. military campaigns spilling into Quebec (Lower Canada).



- The Irish conflicts going back to 12th and 13th centuries bring Anglo-Normans into Ireland starting the course of as yet unresolved conflict and later impacts into Canada.
- William of Orange's protestant armies defeat James' Catholic forces at the Battle of the Boyne. Orange Irish will ultimately be one part of a divided Irish population in various parts of Quebec and continue to be a part of Quebec culture and lore.
- Irish American anti-British activities provoke Fenian raids into Lower Canada.
- Irish reliance on potato, itself acquired from North America, leaves poor country unprepared for the potato blight epidemics of the 1840s. Result is Irish potato famine triggering massive emigration to North America. The long standing Anglo-Irish conflicts reveal a largely unsympathetic England offering only very minimal famine relief.
- Just prior to Irish arrival, rebellions in upper and Lower Canada in 1837-38 become a source of long-standing division. In Quebec, English military are painted forever as the great villains. In fact, Church and civil authorities were equally anxious to see the rebellions forcefully quelled with jail terms, exiles, and selected executions by hanging, while in Upper Canada more English rebels were hanged than were French executed in Quebec, who did not have the same power to divide one community against another.
- U.S. Civil War of 1860s draws many recruits from Quebec, mainly into Union army of the North.
- U.S. Civil War a significant factor in developing mines and railways in the Eastern Townships. Massawippi Valley Railway allows exploitation of copper mines at Capelton and Eustis and subsequent development of a chemical industry (now long closed). A similar copper mine west of Lake Massawippi encouraged development of the Orford Mountain railway extending into New England, also to serve needs of U.S. Civil War.
- These military inspired rail connections provide link for American summer resort developments along Lake Massawippi and Memphremagog.
- British military activities in India send a variety of military veterans into Quebec; e.g. see Lorne MacPherson's *Damn Tight Places* about the Cummings Family. U.S. Indian wars of the far west and unresolved conflicts spilling out into Canada necessitate a western

Continued on next page

MILITARY HISTORY

The influence of the original 1,500 men of this Regiment on Canadian and North American history is still evolving. New historical discoveries are still being made which further indicate that this Regiment deserves a special place in our military tradition

During preparations for Montreal's EXPO 67, the Montreal Military & Maritime Museum (now called The David M. Stewart Museum) revived two historic Regiments - La Compagnie Franche de la Marine and The 78th Fraser's Highlanders. Through the leadership of Colonel J. Ralph Harper and Colonel David M. Stewart, research was undertaken to reproduce the uniform and equipment of these 18th century soldiers. With the prototype in hand, the call was issued, and the ranks were quickly filled with eager university, college and high school students.

Since the 1960s these two corps have paraded daily throughout the summer months at the Old Fort on St. Helen's Island. This exhibition of living history has been enjoyed by tens of thousands of visitors. The Fraser Drill company has demonstrated its piping, drilling and battle formation skills in numerous Canadian and US. cities and historical sites. The squad has also distinguished itself by acting as Guard of Honour to H.M. Queen Elizabeth II on three occasions.

The squad is composed entirely of students mainly from the Montreal area, although some young men have come from outposts as far away as Calgary and Atlanta. These young men already play bagpipes or drums, and are required to learn highland dancing and the 18th century manual of drill with the Brown Bess musket. The aim is to provide healthy and stimulating summer employment which stresses military tradition and discipline. Their training includes a strong introduction to 18th century history and military life. Since its inception, the squad has been supported entirely through private donations from individuals, members of our garrisons and



corporations. The annual budget is in excess of \$75,000 which includes salaries and scholarships, along with uniform and equipment maintenance. The Museum provides a professional support staff including gunsmiths and seamstresses.

...

Many years of research has gone into refining the uniform worn by the Regiment in North America. Since no cloth part of the uniform is known to exist, patterns have been developed based on portraits, accounts and existing clothing from other Regiments. The Regiment was raised and shipped to North America within a few weeks, so simplicity and availability were key factors. Uniformity, as we know it today, was also not strictly enforced. There was a great deal of individuality, especially with the Officers.

The tartan worn by the Regiment has been an object of discussion throughout the years of research. Many believe that the Government Tartan (known as the Black Watch) would have been the only tartan available in large enough quantities and that it would have been the only officially endorsed pattern. Our decision to go with a simple red and green Inverness district type tartan was based on portraits and accounts, and having found a piece of this tartan in the possession of a descendent of the Regiment.

The 78th Fraser Highlanders parade with the Brown Bess musket, the weapon which holds the record for being used the longest in British history, more than 150 years. The drill

sequence was taken from a 1757 manual entitled "The New Highland Military Discipline" by George Grant. It is an elegant drill which has the soldier load and fire his musket in 27 movements. Verbal orders could also be replaced by drum beats, where reloading is performed with only the final orders being given to fire.

The above is taken from www.stewart-museum.org/.

AT THE DAVID M. STEWART MUSEUM FRENCH AMERICAS

The Cities of the King's Engineers in the New World 17th and 18th Centuries. May 2002 - 14 October 2002

In the early 17th century, the French embark on a colonial adventure in the Americas. In New France, Acadia, Louisiana, the West Indies and Guiana, they design and build trading posts, fishing ports, small agricultural farms and commercial outposts while adapting to the climate, the economy and the geography of these far-away territories. This exhibition focuses on the genesis of North American cities, largely influenced by urban French design. Rarely seen by the public, a new iconography featuring maps, plans, ethnological objects and archeological artifacts illustrates this adventure.

police force. The Northwest Mounted Police, a paramilitary styled police force is formed to establish order. Quebecers are among the first recruits. The uniform and operational style are in large part patterned after the Bengal Lancers of the India military activities.

- Outbreak of Boer war in South Africa draws soldiers into English army from across the Empire, including Quebec. Most English communities had their Boer War veterans.
- One Boer War hero, Lord Baden-Powell becomes inspirer of the Boy Scout Movement, in turn the Girl Guide movement led by Lady Baden Powell, with cubs and brownies as introductory stage.
- English military involvements in India led to Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Books* and the Mowgli stories. This provided the language and rituals of the "Wolf Cubs".
- World War I draws many Quebecers into European conflict. Place names, street names, parks, institutions reflect names of battlefields, leaders, heroes. Creation of Valcartier army base leads to in-province anglo migration of displaced land owners.
- Bolshevik Revolution triggers outpouring of refugees from Eastern Europe, most numerously as the Ukrainian immigration to Canada.
- European and middle-eastern conflicts bring Jewish, Syrian and Lebanese immigrants to Quebec.
- World War II draws our population into this major conflict in enormous ways with vast repercussions.
- Royal Rifles of Quebec are part of expeditionary force to Hong Kong. Many Gaspesians and Townshippers experience war years as prisoners of war.



- Aftermath of World War II, including creation of communist regimes brings masses of immigration from Eastern Europe and Baltic.
- Close ties between Holland and Canada are produced by World War II with important Dutch immigration to Quebec

and rest of Canada. Effects on Canadian agriculture and horticulture are profound and pervasive.

- Italian awareness of Canada following World War II leads to major emigration to Canada. Italian communities become a major presence in Montreal.
 - Quebecers are drawn into Korean War as a part of Canada's participation.
 - Hungarian Revolution of 1956 sends another wave of immigrants to Canada. Entire forestry school from Budapest relocates to University of British Columbia with profound effects on forest management across Canada.
 - Middle East Suez conflict of 1956 leads to setting a model for peacekeeping operations ever since. Not only are regular military units involved, but also RCMP. Areas include Sinai, Cyprus, Vietnam, Yugoslavia and its regions, Rwanda, Haiti and more.
 - U.S. military involvement in Vietnam has a number of Quebecers enlisting in U.S. Forces. American war protesters emigrate to Quebec; some stay and become citizens.
 - Vietnam war aftermath brings Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian emigrants to Canada. Some stay in Quebec.
 - Palestinians, Greeks and North African conflicts send numerous emigrants to Canada, adding their languages, customs, religion, dress and foods to our cultural mosaic.
 - Ongoing military, political and social conflicts a factor in significant migration in late 20th century from Indian sub-continent to Canada. Most settle in western Canada but a few come to Quebec.
 - Gulf War of 1991 has Canadian forces in action again. Anglo-Quebecers included.
 - September 11th attacks in U.S. precipitate military action in Afghanistan. Canadian units involved again, an anglo-Quebecer is among Canadian soldiers killed.
- What emerging conflicts will involve our people in a military war? What migration of refugees will add anew to our population?

Richard Evans

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MILITARY HISTORY

Going to a military tattoo

In late August, we enjoyed being spectators at a military tattoo at the Old Fort on St. Helen's Island. This is an annual event and part of the living history military presentations associated with the Stewart Museum there. It seems the term "tattoo" originates as a Flemish term for turning off the beverage taps in taverns at closing time, in essence a signal to close the taverns. This came into the English language during one of the early Flemish military campaigns and drummers beat a tattoo signal to have the taverns closed and soldiers returned to quarters. In the intervening years, it has come to mean demonstrations of a variety of military manoeuvres including music, drumming, rifle and cannon fire, formation marching and in our time demonstrations of mechanical skills.

Among the military units (mostly made up of students earning summer money) are the Old 78th Fraser Highlanders, *Compagnie Franche de la Marine* and *Régiment de la Salière*. All perform marching drills, pipe and drum or fife and drum music as the case might be and gun drills. The piping of the Frasers provide music for Highland dancers, again mostly young dance students from Montreal. This old fort is a beautiful site to spend a summer afternoon or evening being entertained, if at times the gunfire is somewhat startling with noise and barrel flashes. A military tattoo theme is a tug at the heartstrings letting those of us susceptible, feel pride in our traditions. All the better, if as it happens, a family member is a star performer among the pipers. – R.E.

Fraser's highlanders fought the Canadiens, then joined them

The 78th Regiment, Second Highland Battalion of Foot, commonly called Fraser's Highlanders was raised in Scotland in 1757, specifically for service in North America. It played a daring and romantic role in the major battles of the Seven Years' War, a war which ultimately determined Canada's future. Although the regiment was disbanded in Quebec in 1763, it was the only Scottish regiment ever to be disbanded on foreign soil. The men of the 78th were first among the many thousands of "red-coated" settlers who remained in Canada. Since that time, their family trees have flourished, placing their descendants throughout the country and the continent.

The name Fraser is of Norman origin. In the 11th century, "fraisiers" or strawberry growers emigrated to Scotland, where their name took on many different forms including frazee, frazier, frazell but most commonly Fraser. At the behest of Lord Chatham, Colonel Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat, raised the Regiment under Warrant for King George II. The 1,500 men were recruited largely from clansmen, who, a dozen years earlier, had fought for Bonnie Prince Charlie in the War of '45. When an official high in authority questioned the wisdom of arming former rebels, General James Wolfe defensively replied, "If a Highlander gives his oath, he can be completely trusted."

The Regiment sailed from Scotland, via Ireland, to Halifax before moving north to lay siege and then capture the mighty French Fortress Louisbourg in 1758. The men wintered in Connecticut and southern New York State before undertaking the Quebec campaign throughout the summer of 1759. It was the largest regiment on the Plains of Abraham and suffered the heaviest casualties.

Within the walls of the old fortified city, the bitter winter of 1759-60 played heavily on the health of the soldiers. Tradition holds that the Ursuline Nuns came to the Highlanders aid by knitting longer hose to reduce their exposure to the elements!

The next spring, despite a French victory at St. Foy, just outside of Quebec, the British Army, now under the command of General Murray, moved on to Montreal, which was surrendered in September 1760. For the first time since the onset of the War, the 78th was garrisoned with the other two Highland Regiments in the campaign, the 77th Montgomery's and the 42nd, The Black Watch.

The surrender of Montreal effectively ended the war in North America although the 78th did take part in the recapture of St. John's Newfoundland in September 1761. It would be two years before the war was to be settled in Europe. In the meantime, since a number of the men spoke French (due to their Jacobite connection) and were Catholic, they were well respected by the French Canadians in the area. When word was received of the disbandment of the Regiment while in Quebec, many decided to stay on land grants and many married into French Canadian families. During its short stay in Quebec, members of the Regiment were also responsible for establishing the first Presbyterian church in Canada and the first Masonic Lodge, as well as introducing the game of curling on the frozen rivers and lakes.

Even the men who went home to Scotland after the War could not forget their North American experience. Many returned to fight in the American Revolution under Major-General Simon Fraser forming the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 71st Regiment (Fraser's Highlanders). In Canada, Lt. Colonel Allen Maclean raised the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 84th Regiment (Royal Highland Emigrants) from soldiers who had fought in the previous war.

Others returned independently to establish business concerns, notably in the fur trade, where they or their descendants explored and opened the continent naming such rivers as the MacKenzie and the Fraser.

Continued opposite

MILITARY HISTORY

Their motto was No Surrender

The Argenteuil Rangers Morin Company, 1862 to 1911

By Sandra Stock

Morin Heights Historical Association

One of the more unexpected discoveries found while researching the history of Morin Heights has been that at one time, our municipality had a very vigorous citizen militia company. This was part of the larger county militia, called the Argenteuil Rangers.

The Rangers had been organized in 1862 as a cavalry force by Sir John Abbott, who later became the prime minister of Canada. Sir John was based in St. Andrew's East, the then chief town of the ancient Seigneurie of Argenteuil that dates from 1682. This was a long settled and prosperous agricultural area, unlike the wild terrain of lakes, mountains, swamps and rocks of the northeastern addition to Argenteuil – occupied by mainly Irish settlers – that became the townships (cantons) of Lakefield, Gore, Wentworth, Mille Isles and Morin. This area of the county is geographically part of the Laurentian Shield and life was much more



difficult for the pioneers who initially attempted to establish farms like those of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence valleys. Some economic growth was derived from making potash from the felled trees, but until the coming of the railway in the 1890s life was isolated and hard.

Although military service had been included as part of the agreement between a landholder and “the Crown” since the beginnings of French colonization in Canada, and was part of the seigneurial system, it had rarely been put into actual practice. The presence of a regular army, French and later British, had eliminated the need for citizen part timers. However, Sir John Abbott was Canadian born and probably of the growing nineteenth century sentiment that we were becoming a distinct population that should take care of itself. The idea of the citizen soldier originated with the Roman Republic and Empire – the cultural ideal in many ways of the British Empire, at its height in the mid-nineteenth century. It was believed that those who had been given land should be obliged to defend it. Any man with a horse was expected to participate in military service for a number of weeks of the year. Those who didn't own riding horses could rent one from a neighbour for the

Summer Camp exercises.

In the 1860s and '70s, Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec) were subject to several violent intrusions launched from the United States, called the Fenian Raids. This group had rather loosely aligned themselves with the Fenian Brotherhood of Ireland. The Irish Fenians were initially a political movement working toward Ireland's independence from British colonial rule. However, the American based Fenians tended to attract disillusioned Civil War veterans and even a criminal element. Their aim was supposedly the invasion of the Canadian colonies. One of the results of this major nuisance was the hastening

of Canadian Confederation in 1867.

The Argenteuil Rangers, and particularly the Morin Company, did see action of a sort during the Fenian Raids. Cyrus Thomas, who wrote *History of the Counties of Argenteuil, Quebec and Prescott, Ontario* in 1896, tells us, “In March, 1866, the 11th Battalion, being called out on account of an

anticipated Fenian Invasion, assembled in St. Andrew's. Companies 1 and 7 were sent to Ottawa... The companies that were ordered to Ottawa rode up in sleighs and remained there for a month... on their return in April they went to Prescott...”

This account goes on to say that the Rangers then went to Cornwall by train. There appears to have been a group on Fenians on the same train to Cornwall, but interestingly enough, rather than directly confronting the enemy, the officers of the Rangers managed to “conceal the matter as far as possible from the volunteers, being apprehensive of violence...” The Cornwall police later arrested the Fenians. There is a little hint of the comic opera here.

However, there was an honestly perceived threat to the population at that time. With the power of hindsight and 130 years distance, we can't imagine that a disorganized force like the Fenians would have really invaded the township of Morin, which at that time was only accessible by rough trails. Although there had been some serious trouble along the American border, especially at Frelighsburg in 1866, most of the raids had been quickly repelled by regular British army troops.

MILITARY HISTORY

In *The Lachute Watchman* of January, 1886, an item recollecting the “Fenian Excitement” as it had been called, stated, “When the Rangers were called out to repel the Fenian Invasion, there was hardly a man left in Mille Isles or Morin Flats. On a number of farms the women had to put in the grain with a hoe, fathers and brothers being all off to the front with the Rangers.”

Summer camp

The Argenteuil Rangers continued to flourish into the 1880s and 1890s, but never again “saw action” like the sleigh and train defence of Cornwall. There was Summer Camp every year, usually held at Laprairie, Sherbrooke, or some other spot outside Argenteuil. The camps were two weeks long and every man took his horse .

There was also a Summer Camp held in Morin itself, probably either before or after the complete force went elsewhere. We have a picture of this preserved by Peter Jekill, whose great-grandfather, Isaac Jekill, was a Morin Company officer during the Fenian Raids period , and whose grandfather, Henry Jekill, was also a commanding officer of the Morin Company. These camps were probably felt to be lively breaks from the routine of farm work more than actual training for warfare!

There were also inter-company sports competitions, held in Lachute or St. Andrew’s East. These were snowshoe outings, tugs-of-war, football, et cetera. There is also a band mentioned. *The Lachute Watchman* of May, 1886, says “from an early hour in the morning the band of the 11th Battalion enlivened the inhabitants with sweet music.” These assemblies of the Rangers must have been colourful as the uniforms appear to have been in keeping with the lighter aspects of the group. There was a fairly long bright crimson jacket – the officers added gold braid – jodhpurs, high boots and a variety of quite unusual hats – fancy caps

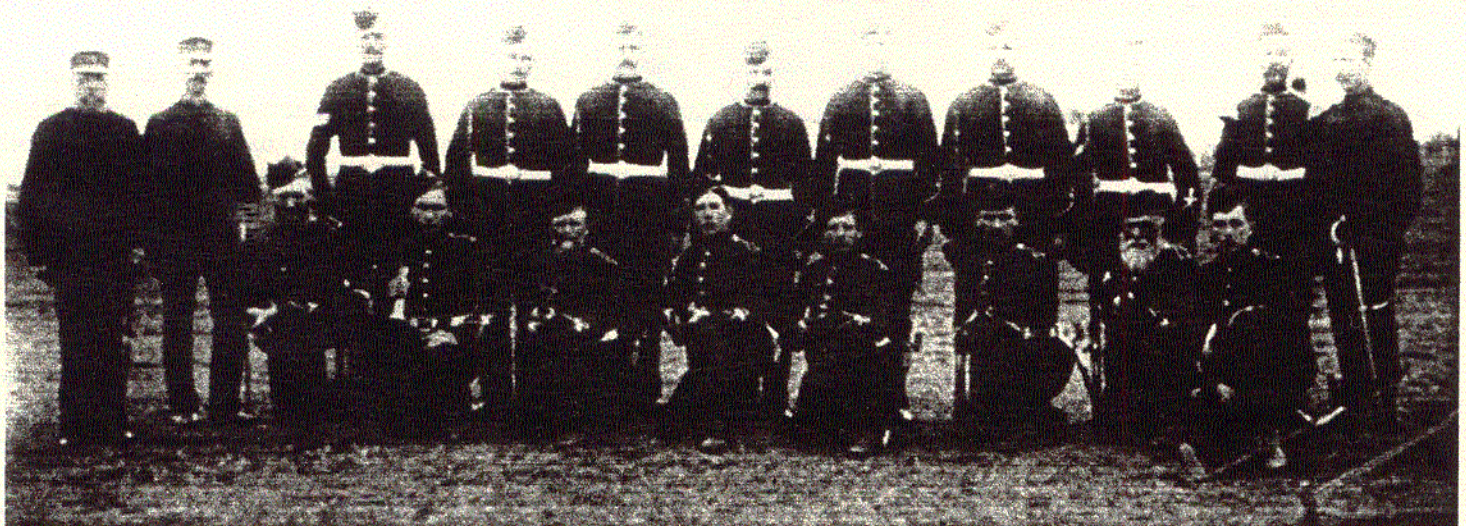
to pith helmets! The earlier uniforms resembled the clothes of soldiers of the Napoleonic Wars. By the time the Rangers were disbanded in 1911, the uniform had become less flamboyant. Early photographs show officers with swords and horses decked out with fancy trappings.

There were (and still are) regimental flags – two of them – and a badge. The flags are in the Canadian War Museum and the badge in the Argenteuil Museum in Carillon. The motto on the badge is “*No Surrender*”.

When the Argenteuil Rangers were disbanded in 1911, the remaining members were absorbed into the Duke of York’s Royal Canadian Hussars. This eventually became the 17th Hussars – the armoury on Cote des Neiges Road in Montreal. The Morin Company honorary sword of its last commanding officer, Colonel J.E. Seale, now rests on the wall of the Morin Heights Legion, coincidentally located on the site of the old Rangers Summer Camp.

By the 1890s areas like Morin Flats (name changed to Morin Heights in a bright public relations move in 1911) were no longer isolated frontier settlements needing volunteer militia protection. The population of Morin Township had become more diverse and more connected with the outside world. By the end of the First World War, semi-private volunteer armies like the Argenteuil Rangers had disappeared forever from Canada and summer camp with your horse was something altogether different.

Sources: *The Lachute Watchman*, December, 1966; Cyrus Thomas, *History of the Counties of Argenteuil, Quebec and Prescott, Ontario*, 1896; archives of the Argenteuil County Regional Museum, Carillon; *The Porcupine*, number 4, 2001, Morin Heights Historical Association; photos: the late Joseph Brown, Morin Heights; Peter Jekill, Calgary, Alberta; and the collection of the Morin Heights Historical Association.



MILITARY HISTORY

The life of Sgt. George E. Thompson, MM and Bar

Born East Clifton, Que. Dec 14, 1895, died Arras, France Sept 4, 1918
Canadian Grenadier Guards, 87th Battalion, Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force

By Burton McConnell

George Thompson was the son of Henry Thompson and Agnes Learmonth and the eldest of their 10 children. He grew up on the family farm, walked two miles to school and church and at the age of 15 began to work full-time with his father, logging and farming. In 1915 he went west on a harvest excursion.

Shortly after returning he and a number of his friends attended a recruitment meeting in Sawyerville held by The Canadian Grenadier Guards who were organizing the 87th Battalion. On Dec. 2, 15 young men from the area signed up and were given serial numbers 197996 to 198010. They were, in order. J. Whittle, G. E. Thompson, I.S. Lowry, J. Curtis, A.A. Bailey, H. Elliott, J. Moffatt, A. Giles, C. Orr, S.R. Statton, G.E. Blair, C.A. Thompson, E. Blair, C.R. Lowry and J.F. Evans. A number of others from the area joined shortly thereafter, and of the original 700 recruited for the 87th, 162 came from the Eastern Townships.

Four of the 15 who joined up that day would lay down their lives in the cause of freedom: John Moffatt at the Somme, Justin Evans at Passchendaele, John Curtis at Amiens and George Thompson at Arras.

Empress of Britain

The 87th undertook training at St. Jean, Que., and on April 23, 1916 they sailed from Halifax aboard the Empress of Britain, arriving at Liverpool May 5. They immediately encamped at Bramshott for further training, although not before everyone was given eight days leave with free transportation anywhere in England, Scotland or Wales. On July 1 they paraded before King George V, and on Aug. 11 they left for France. The History of the Canadian Grenadier Guards states "Here at the station were one thousand men in the finest physical condition and the

highest spirits, eager to get to the front, heedless of the discomfort and danger."

The Battalion had received reinforcements prior to leaving England in order to bring it up to battalion strength of 1000, and before the War's end, 4213 would serve in order to maintain that strength, 886 would be killed, and 2246 would be wounded. Battle Honours were earned SOMME 1916, ANCRE HEIGHTS AND ANCRE 1916, ARRAS 1917 and 1918, VIMY 1917, HILL 70 YPRES 1917, PASSCHENDAELE, AMIENS, SCARPE 1918, DROCOURT-QUEANT HINDENBURG LINE, CANAL DU NORD, VALCIENNES SAMBRE-1918.

George Thompson was a private when he arrived in France Aug. 18, 1916 and saw the trenches for the first time during a two-day instructional tour. He and the others saw their pay increase from \$1.00 per day to \$1.10 as danger pay clicked in. On Aug 24, the 87th took its place in the front line for the first time, and two days later the first of the 886 to die was killed by a sniper. Late in September George would learn that his father had been accidentally killed back home. His mother tried to have him sent home to help her on the farm, but he

refused, writing her that great though her need was, he felt an even stronger obligation where he was, the bond between comrades being especially strong.

In October, 1916 the 87th moved to the Somme, where, on October 21 one of his boyhood friends, Frederick Parkinson was killed. He was hit in the leg, and when Ernest Gorrige, also from Clifton and others tried to carry him off the field, he took a bullet in the stomach. Ernest was hit in the back, but survived.

Continued on next page



Sgt. George E. Thompson, MM and Bar
87th Bn. Canadian Grenadier Guards.
Died Sept 4, 1918-Battle of Arras

Continued from previous page

On November 18 the Battalion captured DESIRE TRENCH, a notable feat, and some members continued further to GRANDCOURT TRENCH where they captured 115 Germans. The Guards history states "Most of these prisoners were taken by four eager Privates, -Roy, Thompson, Garneau and Wienke, who, exploring to a flank came upon five or six entrances to deep dugouts. Caught at a disadvantage, the astonished occupants were persuaded to come up and surrender – eighty of them."

George and the three others were awarded the Military Medal, his citation reading "177997 Private George E. Thompson. For conspicuous gallantry near COURCELETTE, 18-11-16, this man with three others, on entering GRANDCOURT TRENCH immediately started to "mop up" toward the SUNKEN ROAD on the left and came across five or six dugouts full of Germans. These were captured and these four men were successful in handing over to Major Hall over 80 of the Germans".

Later that day, due to strong German counterattacks the 87th was ordered back, but on retiring Major Hall was killed, as was Pte. John Moffatt who had signed up with George. George was wounded in the left arm, sent to Boulogne Military Hospital (Lt. Col John McCrea of *In Flanders Fields* fame was a doctor there) and did not rejoin the unit until the 11th of April, 1917 – the third day of Vimy. Frank Barber, another boyhood friend who was with the 117th Eastern Townships Bn. also won the MM at the Somme for capturing Germans, including an officer with valuable papers.

Shortly after rejoining the unit at Vimy, another East Clifton friend, Pte. Cecil Elliott of the 14th Bn was killed- (June 6/17) when he stepped on a mine in the area. All they found were some pieces which were put in a bucket and buried nearby.

In June of that year George was wounded again in the left hand, spent 10 days in a field hospital following which he went to Paris on leave for a week. In November the 87th was moved to PASSCHENDAELE where they endured horrible conditions. The War Diary for the Battalion singles out for special praise eight soldiers in C Company, including L/Cpl G.E. Thompson. Justin Evans, another who had signed up with him was killed here Nov. 24, 1917.

On April 10, 1918 in the OPPY sector, not far from VIMY, C Company staged a raid at 5 a.m. on ARLUEX LOOP trench. The War Diary states "On arrival at the enemy trench the enemy was soon evacuating towards both flanks in the trench and overland. A lively bombing fight ensued in which it seems quite certain that several of the enemy were killed, and in which we also suffered casualties. The only party able to enter the trench was that under L/Cpl Thompson MM, but with the exception of their leader they all became casualties."

George was awarded the Military Medal a second

time (bar to MM). Only 14 of the 4213 who would serve in the 87th Bn won this medal twice. His citation reads "177997 Cpl. George Edwin Thompson, Bar to the Military Medal for bravery and able handling of men during the raid of 3 Officers and 85 O.R. on ARLUEX LOOP, OPPY SECTOR, morning of April 10, 1918. This NCO was in command of a party whose duty it was to clear the ARLUEX LOOP trench from TIRED ALLEY at B.5.C.5.9 northward. He handled his men on entering the trench with great skill and daring but before he had proceeded more than 25 yds all of his party were casualties from enemy bombs thrown from some yards behind the enemy parapets. He continued until recalled by the Officer-in-charge and attended to the evacuation of casualties. He organized a party to carry out the body of a man who had been killed and carried the body to our lines. He showed resourcefulness and organizing ability throughout."

The 87th Bn. undertook special training in July, 1918 in preparation for the Battle of AMIENS. George's leave was due at this time, and when asked by a friend about it, he replied to the effect that if they wouldn't offer it to him, he wouldn't ask. The entire Canadian Corps performed brilliantly at AMIENS, the turning point in the war. Unfortunately another soldier who had signed up Dec. 2, 1915 - Pte Justin Curtis was killed in this battle, as was another friend from East Clifton, L/Cpl Clarence Elliott with the 14th Bn – but not before he won the Distinguished Conduct Medal, which is second only to the Victoria Cross in the hierarchy of medals (MM-DCM-VC). His citation reads "748956 Elliott C.A. Along with his officer he helped guide a company in the attack, skilfully evading the heavy field of fire, and assisting to capture and destroy the concealed machine gun and crews which were holding up the advance. Although seriously wounded, his resource and devotion throughout was of the highest order." Unfortunately Clarence would never receive the medal himself-he died later that day.

After AMIENS the Canadian Corps were under pressure to keep the heat on the retreating Germans, and positioned themselves to attack at ARRAS in late August. On Sept 2 the 87th were ordered forward over MONT DURY in the direction of the DROCOURT-QUEANT switch, part of the HINDENBERG LINE. Mont Dury is no mountain, just a gently sloped hill falling evenly in all directions. The Canadian Monument at this spot reads "The Canadian Corps, 100,000 strong, attacked at Arras on Aug. 26, 1918, stormed successive German lines and here, on Sept 2 broke and turned the main German position on the Western Front and reached the Canal du Nord." The 87th faced severe difficulties as they moved forward that morning, especially when they crested the hill and faced well-entrenched machine guns firing from a sunken road and a windmill. The windmill (Moulin Damiens) was built of stone and mortar and afforded the German occupants

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excellent view and protection. The artillery were called for but were too far behind to be of immediate use. George, by now a sergeant, and others were ordered to take their platoons forward in the hopes of capturing the windmill. He was soon struck in the chest by machine gun bullets, carried off the field mortally wounded, and moved to the Casualty Clearing Station at Aubigny, some 25 miles to the rear. The windmill was eventually destroyed by artillery shells, but not before a terrible cost to the 87th – five officers killed or mortally wounded, including Lt. Carl Gordon Laberee of Cookshire/Lennoxville plus 86 other

'God has called me'

This is an abbreviated version of an article which appeared in the *Sherbrooke Daily Record* in 1920.

James A. Giles was a "home boy" who had come to Canada in 1907. He enlisted with the 16th Bn, Canadian Scottish regiment and was wounded once, shell shocked four times and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (second only to the VC) in 1916. He received promotions to the rank of sergeant.

He had nine brothers enlisted during the war, and in 1919 married Miss Edith Bowles of Bromley, Kent. On July 10, 1920 they left England on the *Scandinavia*, but he had been in failing health for four months prior, and was depressed. While the boat was anchored off Grosse Isle he jumped overboard, leaving a note "God has called me".

On Monday, July 26 the body was found and Mrs. Giles, then staying with the James McBurney family in Low Forest, near East Clifton, went to Quebec to identify him. There she was met by Canon Scott who had been with him throughout the war (Canon Scott wrote a book-*The Great War As I Saw It*) and he offered to arrange a funeral there with full military honours, however Mrs. Giles wanted him buried beside a younger brother in East Clifton Cemetery. His stone marks his final resting place in the south-west corner of the cemetery.

Last year at the Remembrance Day ceremony when I read out the names of the four soldiers from East Clifton who died in WW1 I added that of Sgt Giles as I believe he too was a victim of the war. – Burton McConnell

soldiers killed and 209 wounded.

A friend visited George on Sept 4. The medical staff, as usual overworked after a major battle, had deemed his case hopeless and left him, with others, aside as they concentrated on those for whom there was a chance. George was fading fast. He asked his friend to get him something to drink saying "I'm done for, but these SOBs won't even get me a drink of water". He died later that day and lies buried in Aubigny Communal Cemetery, with 2830 other Commonwealth soldiers, of whom 665 are Canadians, plus 64 Germans and several hundred French. He is one of the most decorated Canadians in the cemetery.

On Sept 17th as Agnes Thompson and her remaining 9 children were sitting down for dinner she noticed a neighbour, Hiram Waldron, walking up the driveway, his head hung low, and carrying a small

buff coloured envelope. She cried out "It's George – something has happened to George!" The telegram, dated at Cookshire Sept 16, advised that he had "officially died of wounds 42 Casualty Clearing Station September 4 gunshot wounds chest".

A memorial service was held near the end of December at the East Clifton United Church. The reading from the Bible was from Paul's epistle to Timothy. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Mrs. Thompson received many messages of condolence including several from George's comrades. Her most prized message was from his CO, Captain Stairs who included an evaluation written before his death, and which read, in part "He is of exemplary character, efficient and good leader and a fearless soldier. He won the Military Medal in the Battle of the Somme 1916; was reported for good leading at Passchendaele in November 1917 and won a bar to his medal in the drive last April." She would carry this letter in her purse till her own death almost 40 years later.

This has been the story of one local soldier who made the Supreme Sacrifice for the cause of freedom. Some 59,543 other Canadians also lost their lives in the same cause and equally deserve to be remembered.

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.*

**PUBLISHING A BOOK?
SEND US A COPY
AND WE'LL REVIEW IT RIGHT HERE**

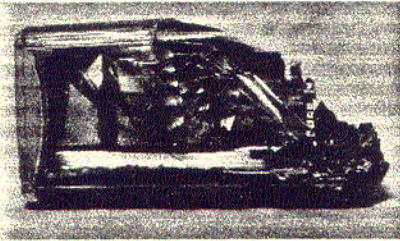
MILITARY HISTORY

Ship in a bottle from one world to another

Prisoner made gift for guard

This object was made by a prisoner interned at Newington Camp in east Sherbrooke during the Second World War. He gave it to Louis Bronson Pierce, a First World War veteran who was a guard at the camp and had been kind to him. A photograph glued to the bottle shows the prisoner holding it.

The Newington Camp was located in the Quebec Central Railway yard where the Sherbrooke provincial prison



is today. Its first contingent of "prisoners of war" arrived in August 1940 and consisted mainly of German civilians considered suspicious. They stayed until 1942. The camp's second group of visitors were German sailors captured by the British, who would stay at Newington until war's end.



Janice Vaudry-Carey, granddaughter of Louis Bronson Pierce, donated the Ship in a Bottle to the Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society in 2001. Despite some damage the creation remains a unique memento of a troubled time and a vanished place.

Francine Godbout., museologist, registrar for Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society.

Park remembers those who did not return

New mural for Magdalen Islands veterans museum

The Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI) continues to improve its Veterans' Museum by developing its collection of artifacts and memorabilia commemorating those who served our country in armed conflicts as well as peacekeeping duties.

Most significant was a 16 x 4 ft. mural mounted on an outside wall. It was designed and painted by two of our talented young people, and depicts Canada's participation by all branches of the armed services in armed conflict.

In 2000, after acquiring the assets of the neighbouring defunct Remembrance Foundation, and as part of the development of the Historical Heritage complex, CAMI held its official inauguration of the complex. Dr. Dyan Adam, the Commissioner of Official Languages, presiding with many local dignitaries and the population in general attending. Along with the Veterans' Museum, the complex consists of the Little Red School House Museum and a Memorial Park which commemorates the ultimate sacrifice of those Madelinots who perished in WWII. There are 23 cedar posts erected in the form of a cross, each named for a veteran who did not return home. Many hours of hard work have been put into building renovations, painting and the display arrangements. The

contents of the museum include veterans' photos, uniforms, medals, books, equipment and weapons. Videos may be viewed during your visit and a space is reserved for reading or research.

Recently new display cases were made, and a donation of artefacts was received from the Military Communications and Electronics Museum in Kingston, Ontario. A complete and more advanced type of inventory is planned for the fall, using tips gleaned from a preservation workshop held in June of this year.

Annual remembrance service

A tradition began with the addition of the Memorial Park, Remembrance Day ceremonies are now held annually. Following church services in the nearby St. Peter's by the Sea the islands veterans are honoured in the traditional wreath laying ceremony at the memorial park followed by a reception in the Museum. The youth of the community participate annually.

We welcome visitors to come and see us on the Magdalens. We are open year round to pay tribute to those French and English veterans who served their country from 1914 onward. The valuable history lives on for tourists and residents alike.

MILITARY HISTORY

Korean War: 'Police action' finally gets some respect

On Sunday, the 25th of June, 1950, 135,000 troops of the North Korean People's Army slogged south through pre-dawn darkness and the wetness of oncoming monsoon rains. The main invasion thrust was through the Ch'orwon Valley, across the 38th parallel to the Oujongbu corridor, the direct route to Seoul, capital of the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

Korea, the Land of the Morning Calm, was now the crucible which turned the Cold War hot.

By the time the civil war of the Koreans had halted, six million of their countrymen – civilian and military personnel – had perished. Nearly half a million Communist Chinese comrades-in-arms of the North Koreans, soldiers of the

People's Liberation Army, were killed in action. To add to the bloodbath: The Americans who supplied the largest contingent by far for the United Nations Command suffered 103,284 wounded, 54,236 deaths including 33,629 killed in combat and 8,177 missing in action. Canada's casualties totaled 1,558 including 516 who died. The total number of UN Forces (including South Korea) killed, wounded or missing was 996,937.

ORIGINS OF THE WAR

Following the end of hostilities in Europe during the Second World War, focus shifted to the Pacific. United States military planners expected a difficult campaign to drive the Japanese out of the Asian mainland and to invade Japan. The American State Department successfully appealed to the Soviet Union for help – that is, declare war against Japan. The deal was closed at the Allied conferences at Yalta and Potsdam in 1945.

After the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the subsequent unconditional surrender of Japan, American concern shifted to the Soviets, who were rapidly advancing through Manchuria and into Korea.

The U.S. suggested a division of the Korean peninsula. The Soviet Union decided that seizing all of Korea was not worth the inherent risks; what was more strategically

important to them was the future of Germany, Poland and the rest of Eastern Europe.

So the tragedy of Korea had its roots in world politics. The Korean peninsula was divided into North and South at the 38th parallel, not by the Korean people, but by the United States and the Soviet Union. It was meant to be a temporary demarcation pending unification of two opposing ideologies. But it was not to be.

In 1994, many secret documents of the former Soviet Foreign Ministry were declassified. In June of that year, Russian President Boris Yeltsin presented high-level documents on the Korean War to President Kim Youngsam of South Korea. The documents revealed that in

September 1949, the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party rejected an appeal from North Korean President Kim Il-Sung to assist in an invasion of the South. In April 1950 Soviet Premier Josef Stalin reversed that decision, believing that the invasion was a low-risk operation that could be successfully completed before the U.S. could intervene.

The documents also revealed that to avoid sending their own troops into the war in direct conflict with the



Americans, the Soviets encouraged the People's Republic of China to do so in the event the tide of battle turned against the North Koreans. With the Soviet promise of arms and air support, the Communist Chinese movement of troops to the North Korean border began long before the UN advance into North Korea in October 1950.

After being informed of the North Korean invasion, United States President Harry Truman ordered U.S. troops into action under the banner of the United Nations. 15 other countries including Canada rallied to the call for fighting forces to aid the beleaguered Republic of Korea Army. Five other nations offered assistance, but for political expediency opted to supply medical services rather than send their citizens into combat roles.

Initially the North Korean invaders enjoyed success. Three

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days after crossing the 38th, they captured Seoul and by early August were approaching the southern port city of Pusan.

The Americans were the first on the ground to support the under-strength, poorly-equipped ROK Army. Fierce battles took place in August and September 1950 to hold a perimeter around Pusan.

Then on 15 September, General MacArthur, Commander, UN forces, launched a brilliant military maneuver by landing seaborne invasion troops at the west coast port city of Inchon. By the end of the month the UN captured Seoul, cut off many North Koreans in the south then pushed north as far as the Yalu river bordering Manchuria. In October, Chinese Communist Forces crossed the Yalu, entered the war in force and pushed back the UN troops. By early January 1951 the CCF had captured Seoul. Fluid battles ebbed and flowed north and south for the next six months.

CANADIANS IN ACTION

On 30 July 1950, three Canadian destroyers: *Cayuga*, *Athabaskan* and *Sioux* arrived in Sasebo, Japan, under orders to sail for Korean waters, the first Canadians to see action in Korea. Five other tribal class destroyers, *Crusader*, *Huron*, *Iroquois*, *Nootka*, *Haida*, served under UN Command during the war. Also in July, No. 426 Transport Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force, flew the first of 600 round trips to the Far East during the war, carrying more than 13,000 passengers and 3,000,000 kilograms of freight. In addition, twenty-two RCAF fighter pilots and a number of technical officers were attached to the U.S. Fifth Air Force in Korea.

Tragedy struck Canadian troops early – even before arriving in Korea – when 17 gunners of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery were killed when a passenger and a troop train crashed head-on at Canoe River, B.C. on 21 November 1950. (Like many events of the Korean War, the memory of this tragic event was buried until a cairn was erected and dedicated on 12 May 1990.) A few weeks later, the first contingent of Canadians, the Second Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry arrived in Korea. The following April, this unit was awarded a U.S. Presidential Unit Citation

for preventing an enemy breakthrough of the UN lines at Kap'yong. In May 1951 the 25th Canadian Infantry

Brigade, comprised of the Second Battalions of the Royal Canadian Regiment, and of the Royal 22e Régiment along with supporting arms, entered the Korean theatre. In June, 2PPCLI which had been attached to the 28th Commonwealth Brigade, rejoined the 25th, which in turn became part of the First Commonwealth Division. The Brigade's first important battle took place at Chail-li at the end of May.

During the summer and fall of 1951 the UN forces continued their advance to the 38th Parallel, during which time peace talks were held in Kaesong and later Panmunjom. Opposing armies dug in. The enemies faced each other across a no-man's-land ranging from a few hundred metres in width to several kilometres. During this phase of the war, and until the cease-fire of 27 July 1953, bloody battles raged for strategic high ground. Battlegrounds such as the Samichon Valley, Hills 187, 227, 166, 113, 159, 355, and The Hook rank prominently in Korean War Canadian military history.



NORTH HATLEY NATIVE SARGE BAMPTON WAS ONE OF THE MANY KOREA VETERANS WHO FOUGHT LONG AND HARD BACK HOME FOR RECOGNITION. NOW MOST WAR MEMORIALS HONOUR THEIR WAR TOO (LEFT).

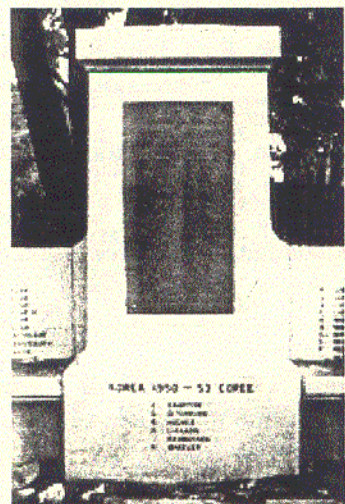
THE PEACEKEEPING YEARS

On 27 July 1953 the Armistice Agreement was implemented. A Military Demarcation Line was fixed and the opposing armies withdrew two kilometres from the line to establish a buffer – the Demilitarized Zone.

The peacekeeping years began – observation and patrolling the 244 kilometre DMZ that stretched from the Yellow Sea on the west coast of the Korean peninsula to the Sea of Japan on the east. The Canadian sector included some of their former battlegrounds such as Hill 355, a permanent monument to courage, battle and bloodshed. The troops contended with the same natural elements as that of their predecessors – summer heat, dust, torrential rains and the freezing cold of winter. And in concert, the knowledge that theirs was a dangerous mission, for if the North launched another full-scale invasion, the likelihood of their survival would be slim.

The RCAF made its final transport flight to the Far East in June 1954 and the last RCN ship left Korean waters in September 1955.

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MILITARY HISTORY

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The Canadian brigade's operational role in Korea ended on 8 November 1954. The Second Battalion, The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada left for home on 6 April 1955 – the last Canadian infantry battalion to serve in Korea. By February 1956 there were only about 40 Canadians still in Korea, all members of the Medical and Dental Corps. The last to leave was the Canadian Medical Detachment, which sailed from Inchon on 28 June 1957.

The cease-fire still holds, although at times badly battered by innumerable violations of the Armistice Agreement by the North, ranging from fire fights in the DMZ (and tunnels dug under it) to confrontations at sea. After 48 years the DMZ is still patrolled; a duty shared by U.S. and ROK troops.

IN RETROSPECT

The democratic nations of the world owe a debt of gratitude to those who served in the United Nations Forces in Korea. As President Truman stated following the outbreak of the war, "If South Korea was allowed to fall, communist leaders would be emboldened to override nations closer to our own shores." There is no doubt that Soviet Premier Josef Stalin envisaged a world dominated by communism. And although militarily the war ended in a stalemate, it was a victory for the UN inasmuch as it preserved the democratic rights of South Korea and sent a strong message to the Soviet Union: Free nations of the world are prepared to stand and fight for those freedoms.

Korea was aptly called The Forgotten War.

For decades the media ignored it. For the most part, reference to the war was buried in archives, to occasionally arise as a footnote to history and most frequently referred to as the Korean "conflict." This lack of recognition is exemplified in this example: In 1975 the Calgary Herald



published a four-part history of Calgary to celebrate the city's centennial. Calgary's military connections in the First and Second World Wars were covered extensively. The Korean War was not even mentioned, despite the fact that the first Canadian infantry unit in action in Korea was from Calgary – the Second Battalion PPCLI.

The formation of Korean War veterans' organizations in a number of countries, including the founding of the Korea Veterans Association of Canada in 1974, have provided the impetus for recognition.

The dedication of national monuments such as Washington, D.C.'s Korean War Memorial in 1995 and the Wall of Remembrance in Brampton, Ontario in 1997, have raised public awareness of the war to new heights. South Korea, which arose from the ashes of war to become one of the leaders of the industrialized world, provides its citizens with the amenities of a modern society. In contrast, their brethren to the north in the dull grey world of founder, Kim Il-Sung and his son



successor, Kim Jong-Il, live in poverty, repression and conditions of frequent starvation. The salvation of the Republic of Korea from the latter is coupled with the knowledge that the free world as we know it today could be a great deal smaller if the UN had not intervened.

These facts provide great satisfaction to a Korea veteran.

By Roland Soper

www.kvacanada.com



QAHN MATTERS

NEWS AND NOTES

The *Société des musées québécois* (the Quebec equivalent of the Canadian Museums Association) held its annual conference on September 17-20 in Sherbrooke. The theme this year is *L'exposition, premier discours du musée* (The Exhibition, the Museum's first speech).

The Heritage Canada Foundation is holding its annual conference in Halifax from September 26-28. The President and Communications Coordinator will be in attendance for this interesting topic – heritage tourism.

The QAHN Board of Directors held a two-day meeting on the Gaspé coast on Sept. 22-23. They met with local groups to discuss how QAHN can organize either a regional or provincial conference in New Richmond next year.

FREE STUFF ON THE LISTSERV

Subscribers to the listserv had two opportunities to get free stuff this summer!

First, the David M. Stewart Museum Library was getting rid of duplicate copies in their library and posted a 6-page list of books they wanted to donate. Many of our members took advantage of this offer to increase their holdings. To see the list and enquire if any titles remain, contact Eileen Mellon at emeillon@stewart-museum.org.

Then we received word that the Redpath Museum, currently being renovated, had several display cases that it would not be reusing. Rather than throwing them away, staff offered them to museums and community groups. All 5 display cases were snatched up within the week! Many thanks to Helen Meredith for the tip off, and to Franco Boriero at the Redpath Museum for his diligence with the three Rs!

Despite some problems with the listserv, there are many advantages! To subscribe, visit our website at www.qahn.org and follow the link to Listserv.

WEBSITE

Speaking of websites, ours has been updated at the end of August. You can download all past newsletters, see Board meeting minutes and glance at our constitution, hear about the 2002 Conference and the projects we are currently working on. The membership list reflects current Core members for 2002-2003. If you're not on this list, have you renewed your membership? Notices went out in this newsletter in March and May and was posted on the listserv. The Speaker's Bank has also been updated to include some of the speakers who contributed to the 2002 Conference. Looking for speakers for your meetings? Here's the place to look! Our Members' Publications page is starting to grow as well. Do you or your organization

have books they would like to post on the web, at no charge? Let us help you sell your publications, give us a call.

All links on the Links page have been updated and checked for accuracy, and we've added many, including a link to our office neighbours, the Townships Heritage WebMagazine (See separate story).

HERITAGE TRAILS

We've received some very good press coverage on the Heritage Trails brochures, including an interview on CBC's Radio-Noon on August 23. As a result, the QAHN office has received many requests for brochures and has been diligently sending them to all corners of the province. If you do not have copies, and would like some, please contact the QAHN office. They are free of charge.

The project to extend the Trails to other regions of the province is currently being revised by Economic Development Canada for Quebec regions. We'll keep you posted!

HISTORY-GEOGRAPHY TASK FORCE

The President and Communications Coordinator met with the *Ministère de l'éducation* History and Geography Task Force on September 10. The HGTF is a group of elementary and secondary teachers, administrators, university professors, consultants, and union representatives organized by the MEQ. The Task Force has been charged with the responsibility of helping anglophone educators deal with the teaching and learning of history and geography at the elementary and secondary levels.

The teaching and learning of history and geography in Quebec schools is going to change in dramatic ways over the next few years with history becoming a compulsory subject at every level from cycle 2 (grade three) through to cycle 5 (grade eleven). For example, the secondary V economics course will be replaced by a course dealing with the contemporary world scene; the Quebec-Canada history course will be spread over two years; and 'citizenship education' will be introduced at the cycle 2 (grade three) level in the elementary school and continue through to cycle 5 (grade eleven).

Topics for discussion at this meeting included:

- Introducing local history into the curriculum
- QAHN's Annual Heritage Contest
- An oral history project for high school students and seniors
- Further collaboration between the HGTF and QAHN, and between local schools and historical societies.

QAHN MATTERS

QAHN RECEIVES MAP GRANT FOR 2002-2003

In August, QAHN launched a feasibility study for a circulating exhibit on New England influences in the Eastern Townships. The Project Coordinator is Heather Darch, the Curator of the Missisquoi Museum in Stanbridge East.

This project's goal is to assess the feasibility of a circulating exhibit on the New England influences in the Eastern Townships. The aim is to establish stronger links between the Eastern Townships museums, offer them an approach to partnerships and concerted action which could be continued beyond the scope of the project.

QAHN identifies itself as an arms-length structure through which the individual museums can establish partnerships, in the province and in the country, to further the impact of each individual contributing museum or archive. QAHN's structure facilitates these partnerships and collaborative approaches to exhibiting a region's heritage or a specific field of heritage. For QAHN, this project serves as a pilot project to demonstrate how QAHN can be used to facilitate partnerships between museums, across regions or sectors.

Funding for this study is provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage's Museums Assistance Program (Access and National Outreach), supplemented by funds from the Townshippers' Research and Cultural Foundation.

HELP AND HINTS FROM AWAY

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES DEVELOPMENT FUND

Financial support for projects is available through the Development Fund, a component of the Canada-Community Agreement with Quebec's English-speaking communities. Since 2003-2004 is the last year of the Agreement, all projects must end no later than March 31, 2004.

Project funding is awarded to organizations for one-time activities only, within a specific time frame that will not require ongoing funding. Projects must be consistent with departmental funding criteria and fit under one or more of the development priorities that are set by the community.

The deadline for project applications for the 2003-2004 fiscal year is **5 p.m. on October 15**. For further information contact Astri Thorvik at (514) 283-9870 or by e-mail at astri_thorvik@pch.gc.ca.

MUSEUMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Museums Assistance Program (MAP) provides financial assistance to Canadian museums and related institutions, for museum activities that support the objectives of Canada's museum policy. The program is delivered by the regional offices of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Priorities for support under MAP include:

- projects which tell the Canadian story and promote inter-provincial perspectives such as travelling exhibitions, outreach, collaborative initiatives and partnerships;
- projects which foster and support aboriginal museum development;
- projects which support and encourage exchanges and dialogue between Canadian museum organizations and professionals.

Applications are reviewed competitively once each year. The deadline for submissions is **November 1** annually. Prior to submission, applicants are urged to contact their regional Museum Consultant of the Department of Canadian Heritage to discuss their projects.

For more information, consult the website at www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pam-map/index_e.cfm.

ARTS AND HERITAGE SUSTAINABILITY

Capacity Building component: Deadline to present a project is October 15, 2002

This component supports individual arts or heritage organizations for projects that will increase capacity in the areas of governance, management and finance.

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, engaging the expertise of consultants, undertaking feasibility and/or market studies, improving management tools and materials, strategic planning, policies or management plans, or strategies to diversify sources of revenue.

Eligible applicants are non-profit arts or heritage organizations operating year-round and employing at least one full-time management professional, and that have been in operation for at least two years. This program funds up to 50% of costs.

We invite you to read the information on the program available at the Canadian Heritage Department website www.canadianheritage.gc.ca and inquire directly with the regional office of Canadian Heritage about the eligibility of your project before making an application to the Capacity Building component.

For more information: Heritage organizations: Nicole Pichette (514) 496-6554, Arts organizations: H el ene Godbout (514) 496-2366

MEMBERS' NEWS

TOWNSHIPS HERITAGE WEBMAGAZINE – A WINDOW ON HISTORY

Townships Heritage Webmagazine is designed to provide the public with a window on Eastern Townships history; to serve as a guide to our region's heritage, past and present, and to encourage people of all ages to visit our region in person. The Webmagazine is an initiative of Townshippers' Association, funded jointly by Canada Economic Development and Canadian Heritage.

Townshippers' Association is a non-profit, volunteered organization with many partners in the region. A vital aspect of the Association's mission is to encourage the full participation of the English-speaking population of the historic Eastern Townships in the community at large. The Association seeks to build bridges between the English- and French-speaking communities, and to foster greater cooperation and understanding between them. Our fully bilingual Townships Heritage Webmagazine not only constitutes such a bridge, but demonstrates the great pride that both linguistic communities have for our region, our accomplishments, and our history.

In the Townships Heritage Webmagazine, Townshippers' Association seeks to showcase and promote the rich heritage of the Eastern Townships, to collaborate with other organizations that specialize in preserving that heritage, and to help educate people of all ages about our fascinating and unique community.

Heritage is one of the Eastern Townships' primary assets, and international heritage tourism represents a

major development opportunity for the region. In this context, we have worked with heritage organizations throughout the region and experts in the tourism field to create a Webmagazine that presents a striking image of the Eastern Townships. The response to this initiative has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Townships Heritage Webmagazine is constantly expanding. To date, it contains over 400 pages of beautifully presented, lavishly illustrated material on the historical and heritage attractions scattered throughout the Eastern Townships. Features include individual web pages for more than 50 organizations involved in heritage in the region. These include museums, interpretation centres, historical societies, historic sites, genealogical societies, archives, and preservation groups.

Historical material covers dozens of different topics: political figures, famous artists, inventors, pioneer history, legends, the Abenaki, the Loyalists, and much more. Some pages are devoted to heritage landmarks such as round barns, covered bridges, and of course, our magnificent architecture and landscapes. Special articles feature places to visit, family outings, news and events, research destinations, people, natural heritage attractions, and topics of general interest.

And all of this is just the start! A series of heritage tours is currently being developed. These will allow visitors to tour such sites as covered bridges, pioneer schoolhouses, and others. Visitors will find trivia quizzes, a calendar of events, photo galleries, maps, and much, much more.

COLBY-CURTIS MUSEUM, STANSTEAD — PORTRAITS FROM OUR COLLECTIONS

To mark the return of three oil portraits recently restored by the Centre de conservation du Québec, the Colby-Curtis Museum presents part of its important collection of portraits, from September 14 to November 10, in the temporary exhibition galleries.

Featuring local notables, members of prominent Stanstead families, delightful renditions of children and some unknown sitters, the portraits are realized in diverse techniques: oil on canvas; pencil on paper; coloured photograph; and a few bronze sculptures. Some of the works are by well-known portraitists, others by anonymous artists.

Photographs showing some of the restoration work in progress will highlight the painstaking and delicate work of the painting conservators and the complexities of the tasks involved in order to bring a work of art as close as possible to its original pristine condition. This part of the exhibition is a great opportunity for us to underline the exceptional contribution of the *Centre de conservation du Québec* which has conducted several important conservation interventions on our collections over the past decades, at no cost to our museum.

Monique Nadeau-Saumier, director

HERITAGE NEWS FROM AROUND QUEBEC

Towns eye rebuild for tourist attraction

Vandals burn unique Capelton covered bridge

By Rita Legault

An overnight fire that was criminal in origin has completely destroyed the historic Capelton covered bridge.

The fire, that began sometime before midnight, decimated the bridge sending it crumbling into the Massawippi River sometime just after midnight.

"The flames shot up more than 100 feet in the air," said André Marcoux, a neighbour who noticed the flames shortly before midnight on September 18.

"I saw it from my house and I thought the village was on fire," said Marcoux, who lives at the corner of Route 143 and Capelton Road called 911, but someone had already reported the fire. When he ran over with his digital camera, the bridge was engulfed in flames and at least four fire departments including North Hatley, Waterville, Magog and Sherbrooke, were battling the blaze.

"When police and firefighters arrived, it was already too late," said Sûreté du Québec spokesman Jimmy Potvin.

Const. Potvin said there was no financial evaluation on the bridge, but that its historical value was significant. The covered bridge belonged jointly to the town of Waterville and Hatley Township. Municipal officials soon began considering a rebuild.

As crime scene investigators combed the site seeking the cause of the blaze, Potvin said it is being investigated as possible arson. He noted there were no electrical installations on the bridge excluding a spark from a short as a possible cause.

Investigators from the major crime squad were also on the scene Wednesday interviewing neighbours and potential eyewitnesses for any clues to the cause of the blaze.

Jacques Langlois, co-owner of the Capelton Mine nearby, commented that the fire had to have been deliberately set because of the fast and even way it spread.

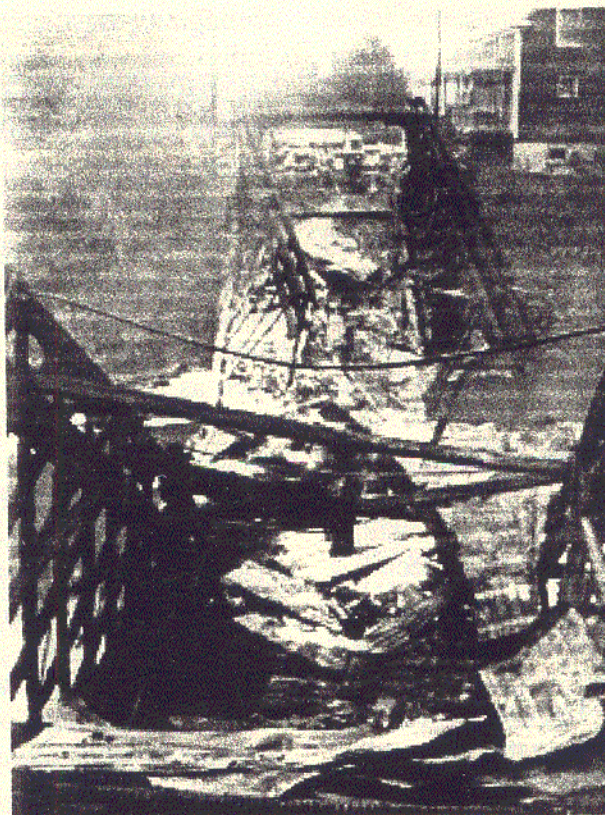
"Wooden beams don't burn that fast, no matter how dry it is," he said, adding that plastic picnic tables inside probably helped accelerate the flames.

At one point, the fire threatened a home located right beside the bridge. A van parked beside the home was engulfed in flames and the house was scorched.

That neighbour could not call the fire department because a transformer was torched by the fiery inferno which lit up the sky.

"This is sad. It's a page of our history that has gone," said Marcoux, who has lived in the neighbourhood since 1974.

Built in 1862 on Capelton Road, the bridge that spans the



Massawippi River has been closed to traffic for years. The heritage site was frequented by cyclists on the path from Sherbrooke to North Hatley, and by tourists visiting the Capelton Mines and village. It was also a popular spot for photographers and artists who came to capture the idyllic scene – especially during the fall colours.

Langlois said the bridge was a haven for tourists, including the 25,000 visitors to the Capelton Mine. He said dozens of bus tours filled with Quebec, American and British tourists also used the bridge as a picnic and rest area.

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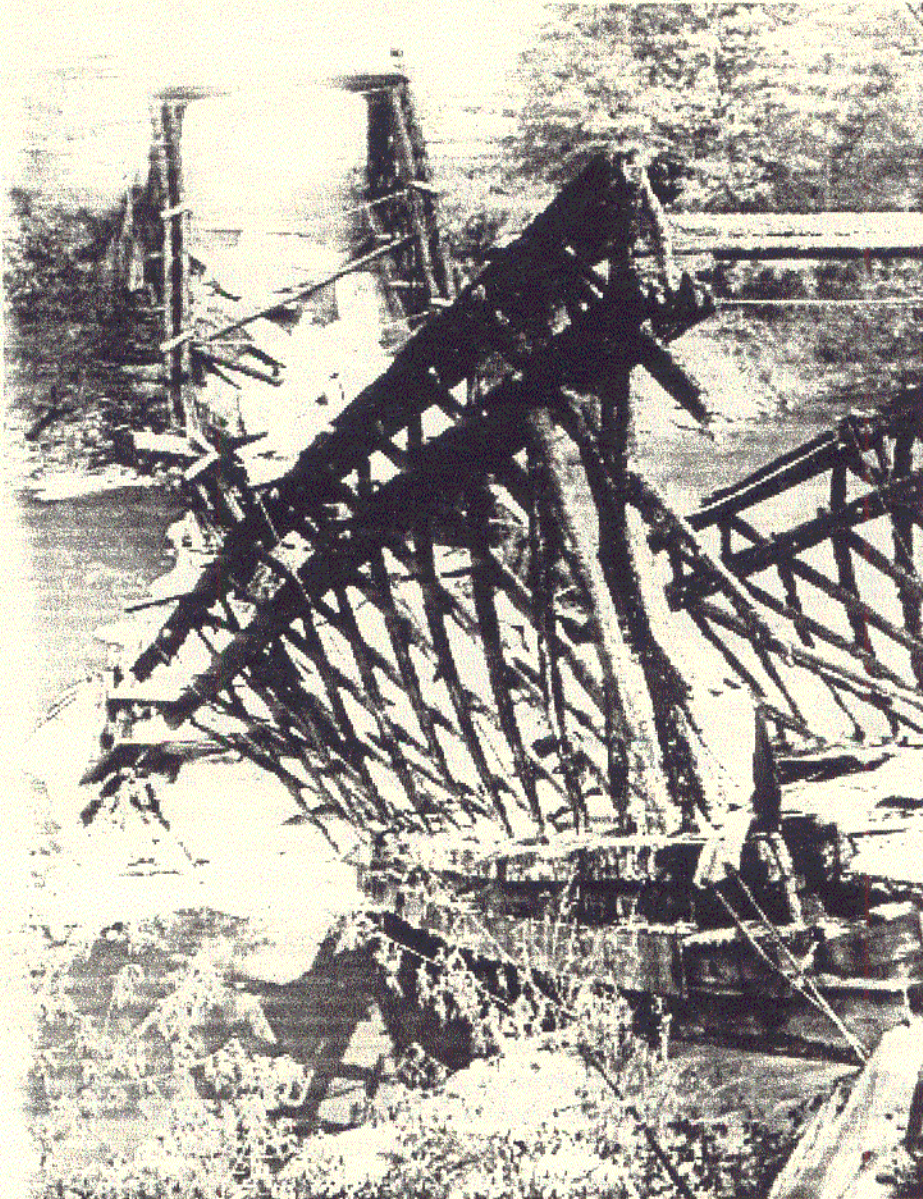
Covered bridges were a common site at the turn of the last century when almost 1000 dotted the landscape of Quebec spanning streams and rivers of all sizes. But few of the historic bridges have survived the ravages of time, the harsh climate, floods and ice floes, use and heavy loads, not to mention vandalism and arson.

Many covered bridges were abandoned and some were torn down and replaced with modern structures before their heritage value was finally recognized over the last two decades. Of the 245 covered bridges that still existed in 1965, only 90 covered bridges are left standing today. Many of the bridges are in poor repair, but Eastern Townships is home to some of the oldest and best preserved covered bridges in the province. Inspired by American builders who perfected a design that was around since the Middle Ages, North American bridges were covered to protect the structures from the sun, rain and elements that would accelerate aging and deterioration of the wooden spans. The roofs provided shelter for travelers and their horses when it rained or snowed, and in the winter, snow had to be dragged in to allow sleighs to cross.

A perfect spot to hide from prying eyes, covered

bridges were a favourite place for stealing a first kiss – hence the nickname “kissing bridges” – or to light up a forbidden cigarette – perhaps the source of the Capelton Bridge blaze.

Until last night, there were 22 authentic covered bridges remaining in the Eastern Townships. There are also a couple of recent bridges



built in Coaticook and Ulverton. Built with triangular beams in the Town Simple style, the Capelton bridge was modified for heavier traffic with Truss style cross beams, said Langlois, adding that the covered span was the last Town Simple bridge in Quebec. The bridge, which witnessed more than 140 years of local history, was 34.76 metres long (about 114 feet) and 5.84 metres (19 feet) wide, he said. It was 3.78 metres (12 feet, five-inches) tall. There are covered bridges in three other provinces, including British Columbia and Ontario. New Brunswick still

has 66 of them including the longest one in the world – the 1282 foot-long wooden bridge that spans the Saint John River in Hartland, N.B. that was completed in 1899, but not covered until 1920.

In the United States, some 800 covered bridges still stand mainly in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Vermont, New Hampshire and Oregon.

*Thanks to the Sherbrooke Record
Photos courtesy of Perry Beaton*

MEMBERS' NEWS

A NEW FOLDER TO HELP KNOW MANSONVILLE BETTER

The Potton Heritage Association is glad to announce the reediting of the folder *Village Tour* which will enable you to learn more about Mansonville named after the Loyalist Robert Manson who settled was in Potton as early as 1796. This folder, first published in 1995, was reedited in cooperation with the Municipality of the Township of Potton, Reilly House and with the support of Pierre Paradis, MNA, Brome-Missisquoi. Settlement of Potton Township began around 1795 but Mansonville started in 1803, when Joseph Chandler and John Lewis purchased a lot and began the construction of a sawmill which was located at the bottom of Mill Street. This colonial settlement in Potton Township appears on a military map of 1839 by Col. Charles Gore by the name of Manson Bridge. The name of Mansonville appeared on a regional map in 1845 as Potton Corner-Mansonville.

In 1811 Robert Manson purchased Chandler's mill, built a grist mill and, by 1864, there were five mills operating on the river. In 1824, William Manson, Robert's brother, opened a store which also housed a tavern. By 1836, Christopher Armstrong had opened a hotel which offered "entertainment for man and beast". James Manson bought it in 1866 calling it Manson's Hotel. Later, it became known as the Mansonville Hotel and, on being enlarged, was eventually owned by the Heath family from 1918 to 1958. This hotel became quite a "hive of activity" before being levelled after a fire in 1983.

Another landmark in the heart of the village is *Place Manson*, a green space given to the Town by William Manson around 1850. Mansonville was incorporated as the Municipality of the Township of Potton in 1855. James Manson started a General Store in 1824, then built the Town Block in 1834 at the site of today's Town Hall. The building housed a branch of the Eastern Townships Bank (CIBC today) established in 1904, the Town offices, a Customs House and a hair dresser. It burned down in 1910. Electricity first appeared in Mansonville on December 24, 1903, thanks to Charles Brouillette's hydro electric plant on the river located between the old mill and the bridge. A catastrophic flood on November 3 and 4,

1927, destroyed the installation and the Town was deprived of electricity for several months.

With the extension of the Orford Mountain Railway in 1906, from Potton Springs to North Troy.Vt., a station was built on Bellevue Road. Later, the Canadian Pacific Railway acquired the line, operating it until 1936 when it was discontinued.

Over the years, several churches were built in the village beginning with the Baptists in 1847, the Anglicans in 1856, the Methodists in 1879 later becoming the United Church and, then, the Catholic church in 1880. The first English school opened 1807. Others followed in 1825, 1857 and the Model School in 1893 at the site of the War Memorial. The first French school started around 1880 and stood where the Canadian Legion and the medical clinic (CLSC) is located today. This building dating from 1922, was a Convent where the nuns, *les Filles de la Charité*, had a school from 1924 to 1956.

David, one of James Manson's sons, built his home, Manson House, in 1875 at the corner of Vale Perkins and Bellevue roads. He operated the family store and rebuilt the second Town Block which burned again in 1923. A prominent public figure of the political, social and economic life of the village, David Manson proudly perpetuated the century-long role of the Manson family in Mansonville.

Other well known families included the Borights, Nelsons and Sheldons, owners of a farm and of a store, today's Denis Hamelin's Axep. Mansonville had several other stores including William Oliver's as well another hotel, the Windsor which did not last very long. It was later bought by C.H. Gilman, followed by F.N. Corriveau and then, in 1918, by Joseph Alfred Giroux, great uncle of the present owners of the Giroux & Giroux Inc. hardware store.

A very special attraction here is the annual Potton Multicultural Festival which celebrates our multiethnic community with a parade, international buffet and entertainment, artisans, BBQ, an evening dance, etc.

Peter Downman and Gérard Leduc, Potton Heritage.

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