



The Beledoon News



A newsletter reflecting activities of the "Von Ayres Cultural Centre"
Wallaceburg & District Historical Society, Wallaceburg & District Council for the Arts, Jeanne Gordon Hall
e-mail: museumpr@kent.net online: www.WallaceburgMuseum.ca **November—December 2022**

Remembrance Day

11 NOVEMBER

In Flanders Fields

poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, 3 May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

lest we forget



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A message from the curator's corner

Kaelyn Gregory

Every November it is important to honour the sacrifices of those who have served our country, and celebrate the contributions our people back home have given to Canadian war efforts. When people think of the "front" during wartime, often it is the theatre of battle in which the soldiers are engaged in violence. For example, during World War Two, men and women were serving on the Western Front (Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Netherlands, France and Germany) as well as the Eastern Front (Russia). Much like World War One, World War Two would eventually devolve into a two-front war. But I wanted to write this month about a third front of the Second World War, which despite seeing no battle has been known to historians as the "Home Front." Home Front refers to the efforts that were being made at home here in Canada to aid in the war effort.

Continued on Next Page



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ON DISPLAY IN THE GALLERY

**November—Dragonfly Stained Glass by Brenda Henry
November 2—26, 2022**

**December-Christmas Market
Local Vendors
December 1—23, 2022**

**** If you or someone you know is interested in a solo exhibit at the gallery, please contact the Art Gallery Curator by emailing MuseumPR@Kent.net ****

Wartime provided women an opportunity to work where they did not have one in the past. The local industries were all switching from their regular business to wartime production, but there were not enough men to employ these factories as most had been sent to fight. The end result was allowing women into the workforce in large numbers for one of the first times in history. The story was no different in Wallaceburg, where women were welcomed into all the factories. The need for workers actually surpassed how many women were willing or able to work in Wallaceburg, and in the early 1940's it was advertised in local and neighbouring papers that women were needed to work in Wallaceburg. The town even put up temporary housing for single females who had come to town for wartime work; this building was on Gillard street and could hold 150 residents. The boom in work actually proved to be essential to some of the factories, as many were struggling to recover from the stresses of the Great War. Wallaceburg Brass in particular was able to stay open on the sale of their bomb fuses.

Even if you were not a citizen who was sent to war or went to work in the factories, you still had to make everyday concessions to help the war effort. Because people did miss out on many aspects of daily life, it made more resources available to those who were fighting overseas. Some examples: sugar, tea, coffee and butter had to be purchased using ration coupons as early as 1942. Meat and preserves were also added to the ration list later, and you could only get any of these things if they were actually available at the time you needed them. Surprisingly, one of the ingredients needed to make munitions was alcohol, so that had to be rationed as well, which of course brought back some of the bootlegging habits people picked up during prohibition times. The Wallaceburg kids would also receive a half day off from school every once in a while to go gather scrap metal anywhere they could find some in the neighbourhood. What they found would be reused to be put towards the war effort. Many of the kids probably did not even know how important this little job was to the Canadian war effort but hey, a day off school is a day off school.

Overall Wallaceburg's reaction to the war speaks to the level of community that has always been here. People were looking out for one another a little more, and especially people were doing anything they could to help.



President's Letter

The past few months again has been a busy time for our volunteers. In August, we prepared for and participated in WAMBO and a new event called Baldoon Days. In September, we handled several research requests, and prepared for changing all our museum lighting to LED fixtures. October had us preparing to bring back our Haunted Halloween Event. All of these events took many volunteer hours to put together and make successful. We are grateful for all of those that worked these events, including several students from the Edwards Academy and WDSS. We are especially thankful for our regulars that have been with us over many years and have made this place a second home.

The truth is that at many times, we do not have enough hands on a project, and often must scramble to find enough people to manage all that needs to be done. We run Bingo's twice a month as one of our major fundraisers. Each bingo we do requires 3 volunteers to run, and we try to have our volunteers do only every other bingo. Right now we often will have the same person involved in multiple bingos in a row. It would be nice to have several more volunteers that are willing to help out at these fundraisers.

Another area that requires special attention is our document scanning and data entry. This requires an interest in local history, and good organization skills. We have a great deal of documents and newspapers that need to be digitized as they are in delicate condition.

Research is another area that we require help with. Many pieces of the collection need more information in their records, including photographs and objects.

The volunteers we have regularly are the lifeblood of this museum, and we cannot thank them enough. They commit countless hours a week to this museum, and we would love to have more help for their projects.

If you have the time, even 1 day a week and interest and would like to tackle some of these projects with us, please drop by the museum and talk to us. We will be glad to see you. We will provide all project training required.

Henry Van Haren,

Jeanne Gordon Hall

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The Beledoon News
Newsletter of the
Wallaceburg & District Historical Society Inc.



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ARTIFACT ARRIVAL

KAREN DIONNE	Phyllis Avery retirement tumbler Victor Goudreau retirement tumbler
LOUIS DEVOLDER	Telescope-Dominion Glass Company, Anniversay Issue May 1973
Paul O'Neil	Francis O'Neil was a WWII Veteran End cover for electric motor made @ Vanatters Radiator hose connector made @ Vanatters Part of a chainsaw engine made @ Vanatters Part of a car starter made at Vanatters Original German engineered toe and heel binding. "Solus"-Solus logo was designed to look like a ski slope. Prototype was too heavy. Prototype heel and toe binding the Francis O'Neil designed (lighter)

A very special thank you to Brian Birkby for your donations from Charlie Warwick

1920 Billy Club
King's South Africa Medal Boer War
1914-1915 Star (WWI) Boer War
British War Medal (WWI) Boer War
Victory Medal (WWI) Boer War
1914-1915 Ribbon Bar, British War Medal, and Victory Medal Boer War
Wallaceburg Service Medal (WWI) Boer War
Queens Mediterranean Medal Boer War
Newspaper Cutout from Wallaceburg News October 18, 1972,
"20 years ago October 1952" Detailing Charlie Warwick's 81st Birthday
2 Postcard from Charlie Warwick to his wife, March 30th, with embroidered
details on the front.
Gold Cigarette Case stating Christmas 1914, a women's side profile
25-year Service with the Legion
Certificate requesting medals
Legion membership card 1951 (No. 15111)
Life Legion membership card (No. 1637)
Case for both Legion cards
Black and White photo of RCAF group @ Base Trenton unidentified
Gold RCAF pin
Silver RCAF pin
WWII Voluntary Service Medal
WWII British War Service Medal

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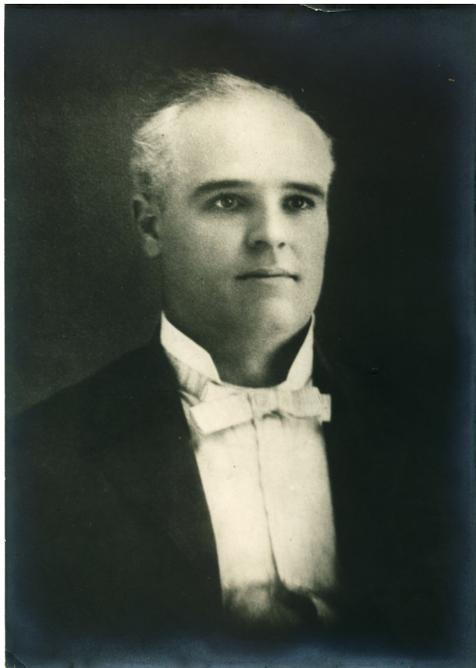


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Founding Fathers of Wallaceburg

an editorial by Jim Mulgrew

In this newsletter Jim is highlighting David Alexander Gordon another Founding Father of Wallaceburg one of our prominent names featured in the Wallaceburg Museum.



These honored individuals are Herbert Wesley Burgess, Captain James Wynard Steinhoff, David Alexander Gordon, and Arthur St. Clair Gordon. Next is David Alexander Gordon

D.A. Gordon was born January 18, 1858. He partnered with his Uncle Captain Steinhoff to create the Steinhoff & Gordon Stave Mill in 1887. In 1891, he became a major instigator in starting the Sydenham Glass Company. The year 1895 was the first year of successful production for the Sydenham Glass Company. The glass factory was a staple industry in town for over 100 years and at its peak employed around 1,200 employees. In later years Gordon helped start three other staple industries of the Wallaceburg economy. In 1901 D.A. Gordon was named president and general manager for the newly formed Wallaceburg Sugar Company. In 1905, Gordon helped H.W. Burgess and Herb McDougall for the Wallaceburg Brass & Iron Manufacturing Company. It was largely successful during the world wars. At its peak the company employed over 1,000 workers. He was also instrumental in bringing the Chatham, Wallaceburg and Lake Erie Railway Company to the Wallaceburg area.

On your next visit to the Museum visit the display in the Industrial Room and learn more about the Stave Mill and The Wallaceburg Sugar Company.

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The Journey to Baldoon

Recently, I had been doing some reading to prepare for our Baldoon Days event at the museum. I was brushing up on the journey that the Scottish settlers took, the different modes of transportation and trying to imagine what it must have been like. The ship that they travelled on across the Atlantic was called the Oughton, this appears to have been a two masted schooner of approximately 100' or so in length. The passenger list contained the names of 102 members of 15 families that embarked on this trip, as well as the crew. They needed to have room for enough supplies and water as well, to last for the 5 weeks it would take to cross. No doubt, there were no luxury accommodations on board such a vessel.

The crossing of the Atlantic would certainly not be a pleasurable excursion as the weather could be extremely harsh. The passengers from the Scottish Highlands may not have ever seen a sailing vessel or even the ocean for that matter. The first few days aboard and under way on the rolling seas would likely make them regret their decision to embark on this journey. When and if they managed to get their sea legs, the long 5 weeks would have felt like an eternity with no land in sight for several weeks. Unfortunately, there were no journals or any other writings about this journey, so we can only imagine what it was like based on the factors of the time period.

Finally, they saw land again, the east coast of Canada: their new home. The ship finally docked at Montreal, Quebec where the passengers would get off the ship and travel overland by French cart to Lachine, Quebec on July 19th, 1804. Here they boarded boats to carry them to Queenston, arriving on August 5th. They would again travel overland, past the Niagara Falls to Fort Erie where they stayed for a short period and were put to work doing various tasks until their journey would continue. Imagine after 5 weeks on the ocean, tired and weary from the travel thus far, surviving mostly on meal and potatoes. The trip continued along the north shore of Lake Erie by boat to Amherstburg with another short stay there. The last leg of the journey would cross Lake St. Clair, up the Snye and finally arrive at the Baldoon Settlement on September 5th, 1804.

The land was very different from the Highlands that they left behind. Back in Scotland there were rolling hills, bare and rocky, suitable for grazing of sheep. In Upper Canada there were lush forests with plenty of wildlife, rivers and lakes full of fish, with land once cleared could grow a variety of crops. What more could they want? Reality would soon set in as the land they arrived at was wet from heavy rains and their houses were not yet built. Sickness would soon set in, attributed at first to decaying vegetation from the marshy ground, but was in fact caused by the mosquitos that were prevalent in the area. Many of the early settlers were lost to malaria. Makeshift shelters were made from tents and logs that had to make do until spring of the next year.

This 3-month journey under conditions that we could not truly imagine with our current lifestyle and amenities makes us realize the strength and fortitude that these early settlers had. To leave their homes with few belongings, where they had struggled to survive and travel to a new land with hopes of a better life, to be disappointed by the hardships they faced. For those that survived to plant the seeds of growth and prosperity and the beginnings of Wallaceburg and area, we are thankful.

By Henry Van Haren

	<p>You can now follow us on:</p> <p>Instagram : wallaceburgmuseum</p> <p>TikTok: @wallaceburgmuseum</p> <p>Facebook: /wallaceburgmuseum</p>	 <p>Come Visit Santa Claus Saturday, December 10th, 2022 10:00am—2:00pm Wallaceburg District Museum</p> <p>Write your Santa Claus Letter Decorate a Cookie Make a Craft Photo with Santa \$5.00 per child</p> <p>Additional Photos \$3.00 Group Photos \$5.00</p>
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Wallaceburg Historical Business Search

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

S R E D N A R B X H N F H L I
 P X T A P N Q L C F W K P S K
 N R R E N N G A P E S I L X L
 I Q U Y A G E V N R E L U C L
 C F L V L L Z O S I E S W B N
 H F C K U A T K T W Z C L A O
 O O Y D C S A T L I T H P B S
 L H P D Y S A O F F I U K C R
 L N U E Z E C J R Y V L S O E
 S I K Q B X F A A O A T S C T
 K E Q S N A E D F M Z Z A K T
 W T V B U R G E S S E N R S A
 E S U O H E N O T S R S B S P
 N P S W A H S O G F I T N O U
 Q S A W J A C K S O N S D J E

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. jacksons | 2. shaws | 3. colwells | 4. oflynn |
| 5. brass | 6. burgess | 7. beattie | 8. keystone |
| 9. glass | 10. leach | 11. schultz | 12. branders |
| 13. james | 14. patterson | 15. steinhoff | 16. deans |
| 17. stonehouse | 18. babcocks | 19. zavitz | 20. nicholls |



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2022

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