



Historic Gloucester

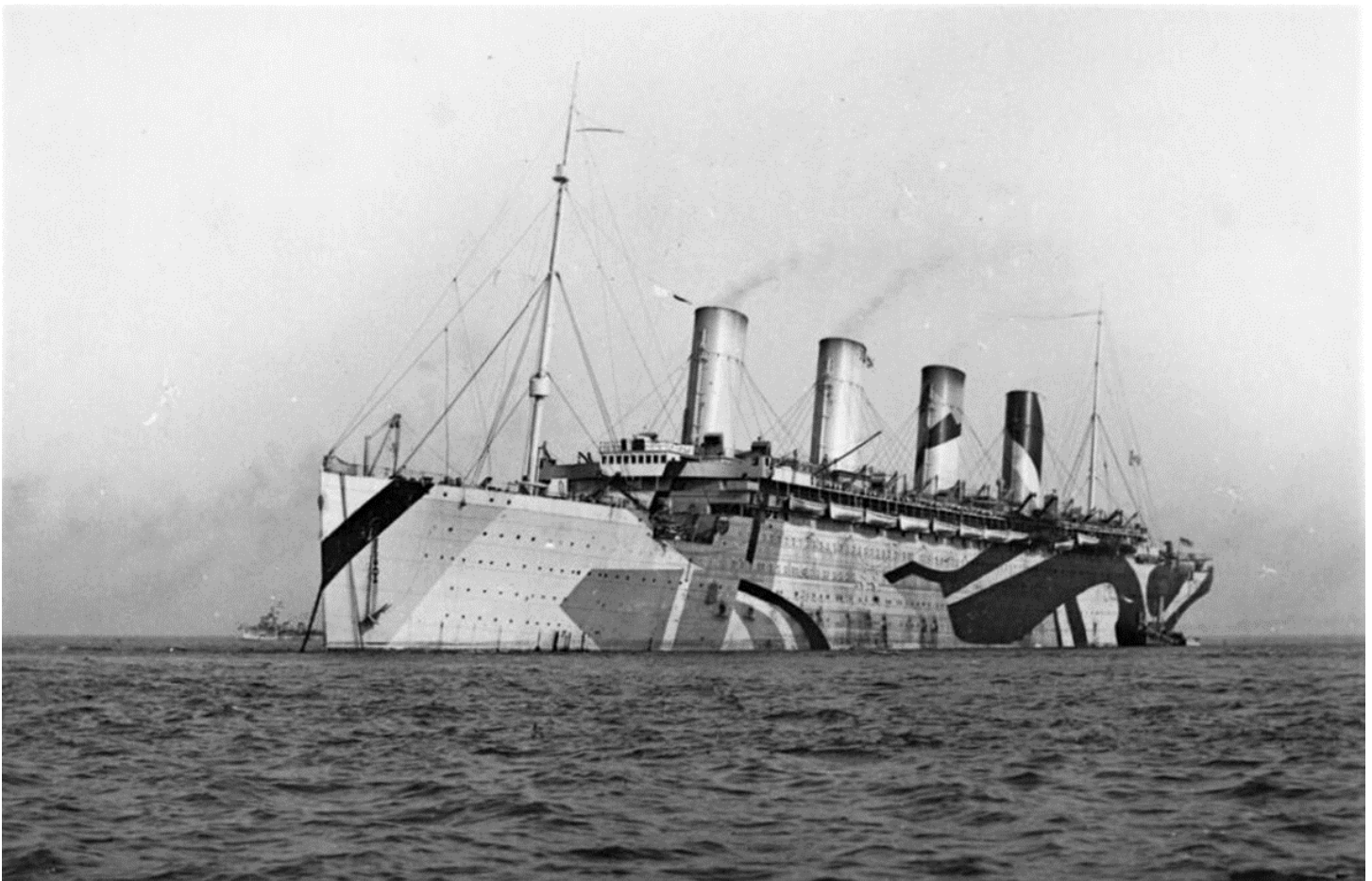
Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

www.gloucesterhistory.com

Vol. 25 No. 1

Spring 2024



RMS Olympic, sister ship to the Titanic, was a World Class Ocean Liner during the early 20th century and served as a Troop ship between Canada and the United Kingdom during World War I. This photo shows its military paint scheme.



The Gloucester Historical Society acknowledges financial assistance of the City of Ottawa

Contents

President’s Message.....Glenn Clark.....2
 Billings Bridge WWI Scroll Found Glenn Clark.....4
 Annual General Meeting Flyer.....17
 Membership Form.....18

President’s Report

By Glenn Clark

I look out my window this day in early March and I am astonished by the lack of snow. Is this really Ottawa? But, how can I not be excited by the exceptionally early arrival of spring?

I wish to bring you good news of upcoming events.

First, I remind you of our upcoming Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 2 p.m. at the Gloucester South Seniors’ Centre, 4550 Bank Street. This meeting is open to GHS members and the General Public. Admission is free. We are truly privileged to have Claudette Cain Coulas, last mayor of Gloucester, as our speaker. We will learn about her political career which was preceded by being a Gloucester staffer in the very same building where our meeting will take place. Please join us on this special occasion.

I am also excited to be participating again in Jane’s Walk, which takes place on the first weekend in May. Final details of my walk are yet to be worked out, so please keep an eye on our website, Facebook page or the Jane’s Walk Ottawa website. I expect that walk registration will be required to keep numbers within reasonable levels to allow good interaction. The walk will start on Saturday, May 4th at 10 a.m. but that is still subject to change.

Finally, we plan to be open for Doors Open Ottawa on Saturday June 1st and Sunday, June 2nd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please come and visit us. This will likely be the last time that we will be participating in Doors Open given the planned closure of the Grace Johnston History Room and the building later this year.

After the great success of our visit to RCMP stables last fall, we are looking into the possibility of other customized GHS tours of interesting buildings

in our community. The GHS board of directors have been discussing various ideas, one of which we hope to bring to you later this year.

As an update, regarding our building at 4550 Bank Street, the former Gloucester Township Hall, we are expecting to have to be out of the building by the end of the year. I have been told that the seniors club has received an extension until the 25 May 2025.

We are very thankful to have received an invitation to relocate to the Ottawa City Archives, 100 Tallwood Drive, just off of Woodroffe Avenue in Nepean. A big thank you to Mr. Paul Henry, Chief City Archivist, who provided a tour of their excellent facility and answered our many questions.

Nevertheless, this is going to be difficult change. We will be losing our presence in Gloucester. As a result, we are looking into various possibilities to make this a win-win situation as much as possible.

As you can imagine, I am personally feeling a great deal of responsibility for the legacy left to us by our founder, Grace Johnston. The museum collection started by GHS members in the 1980s has been under city control since 2001. It is presently being catalogued and will be moved to some yet to be determined location. We have been so lucky to have had the collection in the next room for so many years, but that connection will finally be broken. Perhaps, more than anything, I feel saddened the most by the relocation of the collection.

In the end, I wish to reassure you, that the GHS will still be there to serve you. In particular, public meetings and events will continue to take place at Gloucester locations, and we will continue to respond to your e-mails and study and publish stories about our rich past.

Finally, in this edition of Historic Gloucester, we are providing the first installment of a set of 48

biographies of World War I soldiers, based on a scroll recently discovered from the Billings Bridge Orange Lodge. I expect this will require all four newsletters for 2024 to fully publish these stories. Their stories are surprisingly diverse, and I have a special attachment, because of my family connection to Billings Bridge. This has been an interesting study with many 'ah-ha' moments, and there have been unexpected connections to other stories previously published in our newsletter. Of course, a few of these young men made the ultimate sacrifice 'For King and Country', dashing promising lives that were just beginning. I hope you enjoy reading about these 48 lives.

Sad News

We must announce the sudden and unexpected passing of Keith McCooeye, age 87 on Sunday, March 3, 2024. He was husband of former GHS director, Shirley McCooeye and brother-in-law of former GHS Treasurer, Flo McRostie. Keith had been greatly involved in the Orange Lodge right up to the national level for many years and was a devoted member of South Gloucester United Church along with Shirley. He also leaves a beloved son Scott. His funeral took place at Capital Memorial Gardens Funeral Home on Saturday, March 16, 2024, with internment at Springhill Cemetery. Please keep Shirley's family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Proposed By-Law Amendments Requiring AGM Ratification

The following amendments will be voted on by GHS members at our April 7, 2024 AGM. We will vote on the two amendments separately. These are important amendments relating to our expected relocation and to modernize our by-laws in the event of dissolution of the society.

Moved by Lindsay Whillans, seconded by Laurel Sherrer that we make the following amendments to our by-laws.

1 Article 5.1 currently reads:

“Head Office – The head office of the Society shall be located within the boundaries of the former Township of Gloucester.”

be amended to read:

“Head Office – The head office of the Society shall be located within the boundaries of the City of Ottawa.”

Rationale: Given the current situation regarding the building at 4550 Bank Street (closure and probable demolition), we need flexibility in relocating to a new location. At the present time, the only offer is the City of Ottawa Archives building, which is not within the former Gloucester Township.

2 Article 5.6 currently reads:

“Dissolution – In the case that the Society should cease to exist, all historical collections will be held in trust by the Ontario Historical Society until such time as an appropriate local organization is capable of the safekeeping and preservation of such a collection. After the payment of all debts and liabilities, any remaining property shall be distributed to or among such charitable institutions and organizations as the Board of Directors may determine. At the time of dissolution, all papers and documents generated during the operation of the Society shall become the property of the Ontario Historical Society, to be kept in an approved archival state.”

be amended to read:

“Dissolution – In the case that the Society should cease to exist, all historical collections shall become the property of the City of Ottawa Archives. After the payment of all debts and liabilities, any remaining property shall be distributed to or among such charitable institutions and organizations as the Board of Directors may determine. At the time of dissolution, all papers and documents generated during the operation of the Society shall become the property of the City of Ottawa Archives, to be kept in an approved archival state.”

Rationale: The original wording predates the 2001 City Amalgamation. Since Gloucester is now part of the City of Ottawa, we believe that the City of Ottawa Archives is a suitable location for GHS records in the event of the dissolution of the society. We are also concerned that our records would be located in Toronto which would create a barrier for local researchers.

Billings Bridge World War I Scroll Found

By Glenn Clark

A chance meeting on November 30, 2023, and a brief conversation gave the Gloucester Historical Society access to an important historic document.

That night, St. James Anglican Church Leitim celebrated the beginning of the Christmas season when it unveiled its annual lighting display, something that the church has been doing for the last 10 years. One of the parishioners had mentioned the event at a community meeting in Hunt Club that piqued the interest of one of the attendees.

Alek Golijanin loves Christmas and when he heard of the church lighting event, he was excited to attend. The evening included caroling and a reception. During the reception, a conversation began about the history of the church that dates to 1860. It turned out that Alek was also fascinated by local history and wanted to know more. It was during this conversation that he revealed that he had purchased a World War I scroll by on-line auction. The scroll came from the Billings Bridge Orange Lodge, whose building was only demolished in early 2023. It is a mystery how this scroll came into private hands, when other items had been donated to the Gloucester Museum and the Gloucester Historical Society.

The scroll is mounted, framed and behind glass. The wood backing concealed packing material which consisted of the March 1, 1917, and December 7, 1918 editions of the Ottawa Citizen. This made sure that the scroll would fit tightly behind the glass.

Although the scroll is not being donated, we were welcomed to photograph it and that photograph is shared in this story.

The scroll is from the Billings Bridge OYBL (Orange Young Britons Lodge) 48, and offers the names of those from the lodge who volunteered for service in World War I. The scroll also lists those who were killed in action, died of wounds, returned disabled or returned from overseas for other reasons (illness, disability, etc.). The volunteers were from Billings Bridge and surrounding areas including Old Ottawa South. Interestingly, the number of men listed was also 48.

The Soldiers

This article includes brief biographies on

each of 48 listed soldiers. The biographies will be spread over all four newsletters for 2024. The first eight will appear in this newsletter.

We cannot possibly relay the horrors of trench warfare, and not all of them reached the front. Nevertheless, I have been able to piece together quite diverse life stories.

Being members of the Orange Lodge, our soldiers had a greater connection to Britain and the monarchy. As a result, I expect that the volunteer rate was greater than the overall Canadian populace. We should also be aware of the impact of Conscription, which was enacted by Parliament on August 29, 1917. Many of those who enlisted after that date may have been drafted into military service. There is no indication in military records to confirm those who had been conscripted, but many young men appealed being drafted for a variety of reasons. In the case of our soldiers, it was mainly because of work on the farm. The newspapers covered the appeal process extensively and it is interesting following the proceeding and the reasons given for the appeal by individual draftees.

The draft began quickly after the enactment of Conscription in the fall of 1917. The appeal process involved two steps. First, they appeared before a local tribunal. There were a number of these tribunals that met in various locations around Ottawa. The closest to Billings Bridge was Tribunal No. 130 that met at 1152 Bank Street in Ottawa South. Those hearings took place in November and December 1917. If the appeal was disallowed, the draftee could then follow-up with a further hearing at the County Court house on Waller Street. If the second appeal failed, then the draftee was required to enlist. Likely, they were given a specific time limit. Others could have their enlistment delayed indefinitely (usually those working on a farm) or until a specific date or they were required to undergo a further military medical examination.

Canada joined World War I automatically with the United Kingdom on August 4, 1914. Canada did not yet have a fully independent foreign policy. In the first months, Canada was not prepared for widespread enlistment, and our earliest volunteers joined at Camp Val Cartier, near Quebec City. By the end of 1914, local enlistment became possible.

Some of the biographies have enlistment taking place out west in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Those men were coming of age with little opportunity on the local family farm and unlikely chances of acquiring good farmland nearby. There were better opportunities to acquire a farm out west. In two cases, our men went to the Grand Prairie district of Alberta, Canada's last major agricultural district to open for homesteaders, only a few years before the outbreak of hostilities. Those stories identify specific homestead locations chosen by our Ottawa boys.

As a fraternal organization, all of our soldiers were friends or at least acquaintances through the Orange Lodge. Their families were also connected through the Lodge and through a close-knit community that was Billings Bridge. You can see these family connections through their stories, and I am sure that an even deeper dive would reveal even more relationships.

Medical Histories

Each military record includes a medical history. While some of our soldiers came through the war relatively healthy at least on a physical level, medical records show the extent to which our soldiers required hospital treatment for a wide variety of illnesses and injuries. A few of our soldiers suffered from typhoid, diphtheria and tuberculosis, serious transmittable diseases, that were of particular concern to the military. Influenza was widespread, and although never mentioned, I am sure that many cases in 1918 and early 1919 were Spanish Flu. One of our soldiers died of pneumonia during the flu epidemic, but after being discharged.

It may come as a shock to all of you, but the most common communicable disease suffered by our soldiers requiring hospital treatment was venereal disease. I will not get into the specifics about each soldier, but it tells us something about society of the day. This was not a specific problem with this group. Statistics have been tallied revealing that the rate of venereal disease amongst Canadian soldiers, was 222 incidents per 1,000. This was the worst rate amongst the Allied forces during World War I. This was contrary to Canada's image as a land of wide-open spaces, fresh air, and clean living back woodsmen.

You might ask why? Part of it relates to Post Victorian ignorance and repression. How many parents of that generation had 'the talk' with their sons and daughters? Probably very few. How about sex

education? That only took place in school yards and back alleys. Contraception use would have been rare.

In Ottawa, there were further issues. At the time of the First World War, the lumber industry was still king. There was a seedy side to this business. Who has heard that Bytown was once the most violent frontier town in North America? Ottawa was not always 'the town that fun forgot', as many suggest today.

What made the lumber business seedy? It was the river runners and the lumberjacks who came to town after a long winter and early spring in the bush and on the rivers guiding the log booms towards the Ottawa mills. They were flush with cash and ready for fun and frolic after months of very hard work. Lebreton Flats, Hull, and the Byward Market were full of hotels. ready to serve the needs of these seasonal customers. Some of those old hotels designed for the lumbermen survived until the 1960s when they were finally eliminated by urban renewal or replaced by modern office towers. Recent archeological digs on Lebreton Flats revealed that these hotels not only served alcohol and women, but also drugs, long before we thought there were drug problems. The lumbermen lived hard, and they played hard. In our last edition of Historic Gloucester, it was mentioned how the saloon keepers of this same era were the only ones who knew how to provide 'entertainment'. Our local boys were not immune to this temptation. For most, it was only a streetcar ride away.

As you can see, this was a serious problem, not just for the soldiers but also for the military. It was not just prostitution overseas, but many were suffering on enlistment. This required careful screening and treatment. There were no antibiotics in those days, so treatment was lengthy, and difficult. It required hospitalization and segregation. Whole hospitals, or wings or floors were dedicated to treatment. And only when the condition was clear, were soldiers allowed to enlist or to return to their units.

While medical screening generally excluded those unfit for military service, a few of our group were persistent enough to pass screening and then spend much of their military career in treatment or hospital. Generally, those were eventually returned to Canada and discharged before the end of the war.

The impact of the war on our soldiers will never be fully known, and we have all heard stories of war veterans not sharing their painful memories. However, many on our list never married and one spent time in prison, something that was attributed to war injuries during the trial.

On the other hand, most lived a normal life in the post-war years, were married and had children. Most remained in Ottawa for the rest of their lives. Some of them established well known Ottawa businesses including the once popular Green Valley Restaurant on Prince of Wales Drive. Others continued the family market garden business, a common feature of small-scale farming in the Billings Bridge area. A few would serve again during World War II, and many had sons who volunteered. This is all identified through their stories.

A few suffered life-long challenges as a result of being orphaned in childhood. One had been orphaned locally while two others were home children who came from Scotland. You can read between the lines and note the lack of stability in their lives.

I have also made efforts to identify where each soldier's family lived during the war years, and at other points in their lives, when possible. I have been successful in identifying professions and their final resting places, with one exception, Edward Sutherland, whose later life remains in a cloud of mystery.

On a personal level, with my family being from Billings Bridge, I have direct connections to some of these soldiers. Two were great uncles, John and James Cutts. They had died before my memory. Howard Clifford was my godmother's father, who I met in childhood. The Slinn family were the previous owners of my grand parent's house on Pleasant Park Road.

I have also wondered how many of these soldiers my father would have known from his youth at Billings Bridge.

The Gloucester Historical Society always welcomes stories and photographs of Gloucester war veterans for inclusion in the Gloucester Virtual War Memorial or for publication in this newsletter. Please contact us if you would like to contribute.

Data Sources

There is an extensive list of newspaper references provided at the end of the article. That list will appear at the conclusion of this story, to be published in Vol. 25 No. 4. This list is far from comprehensive.

Other sources came from the many resources offered by Ancestry.ca and Library and Archives Canada. This included the following:

- World War I attestation and service records
- Canadian census records up to 1931
- In a few cases, American and Scottish census records were used
- Gloucester and Ottawa Voter lists
- Gloucester tax assessment rolls
- Ottawa city directories
- Official Ontario birth, marriage, and death records
- Ontario property records for Ottawa-Carleton
- Newspaper obituaries and other stories published in the Ottawa Citizen and Ottawa Journal.
- Family trees prepared by others were used with caution as they often contain inaccurate information
- In several cases, I created family trees to bring together a complexity of information and gain a better understanding of certain families that are not well documented.
- Some photos are from the book "Our Heroes in the Great World War" contributed by J.H. De Wolfe and published in 1919.

S.S.S.

H.H.H.

BILLINGS BRIDGE

OYBL 48

1690

1914



Roll of Honor

● William J. Kerr	William Dory
● Hans Johanson	Fred Webster
● Jas. Henderson	Charles Joy
⊕ Walter Linn	Harry Parson
Harmon Glenn	James Spratt
⊕ John Nyckman	Charles Martin
Fred J. Collins	Truman Morse
Ernest Anderson	James Brown
Robt. Baillie	Edward Sutherland
● Isaac Anderson	Alfred Belot
Arnold Lennar	Edward Moore
Percy Belot	Alexander Fraser
● Ernest Clifford	Edward A. Cairns
William Walsh	Stanley Laugel
Harold Paach	Milton Bowler
John Cutts	● Basil Evans
James Cutts	William Lusk
Norman Lyall	Howard Clifford
John Backs	● Halder J. Stewart
● Willard Hull	William Trick
Bower Boyd	Fred Henry
Fred Jones	William Nyckman
Fred Cowan	Alan Acree
William Hull	Fred J. Jones

● Killed in Action
 ⊕ Died of Wounds

⊕ Returned Disabled
 ● Returned

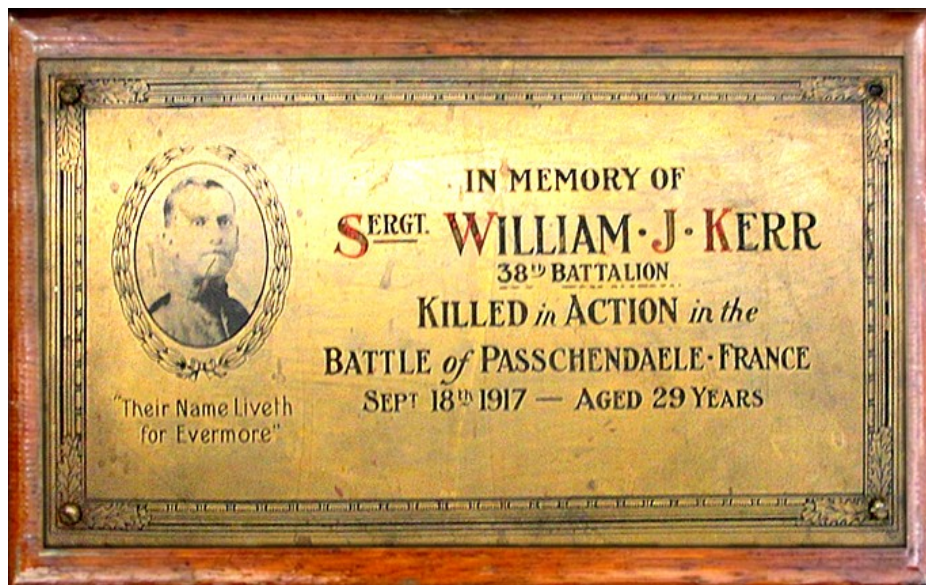
GOD SAVE THE KING

A.C.M. Quinn
Mar. 917

Killed in Action

1 - William James Kerr was born on the 18 September 1888 in Dalmore, Rosskeen, Ross-shire, Scotland. Parents – John Kerr and Eliza Hill Tosh. In the 1901 Scottish Census, he is a message boy living at 27 West Campbell Street, Blythswood, Glasgow Barony, Lanarkshire. He is living with his parents and three brothers, Joseph, Thomas and Alexander, and sister, Eliza. He married on the 15 November 1910 to Maud(e) Hypson in Ottawa. Profession – Blacksmith. In 1911, he lived at 155 Florence Street with wife Maud and daughter Maud. He was a blacksmith. He is listed as having immigrated to Canada in 1910. He enlisted on the 10 April 1915 in Ottawa. Profession – Carriage Fitter, Next of Kin – Mrs. Maude Kerr (wife) 136 Florence Street, later 198 Carling Avenue, Ottawa. Previous Service – Highland Light Infantry for 3 years. Appearance – 5 foot 5 inches, ruddy complexion, brown eyes, brown hair. Rank – Sergeant. Medals – His widow received the Memorial Star and a Memorial Plaque and Scroll. Unit – 38th Ottawa Battalion, Eastern Ontario Regiment, Canadian Infantry. He departed from Ber-

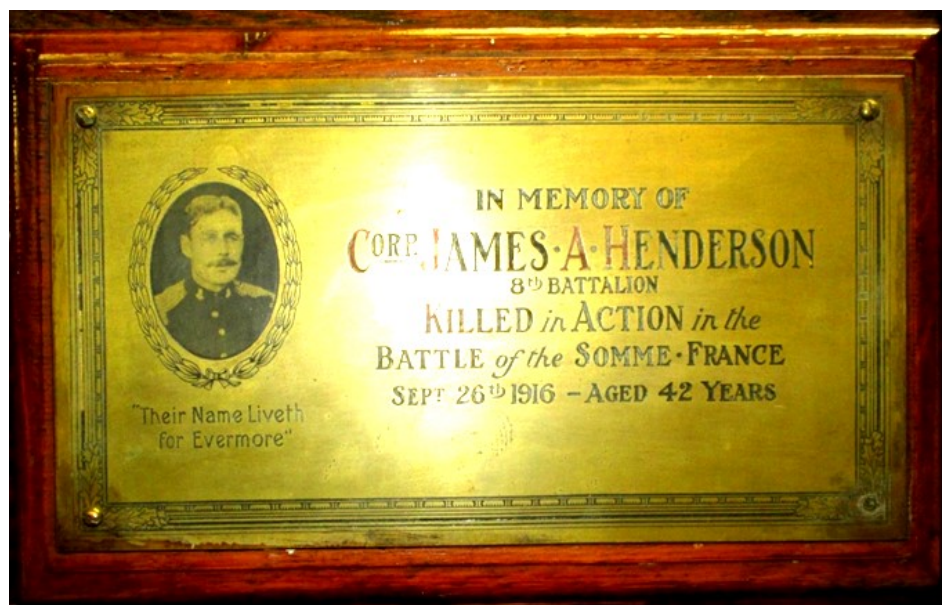
muda with his unit on the 29 May 1916 on board the S.S. Grampian, arriving in Plymouth, England on the 9 June 1916. He was stationed at Bordon and Longmoor. He arrived in Le Havre, France on the 14 August 1916. He was killed in action on the 18 September 1917. The circumstances of his death were truly sad, as he was celebrating his birthday and was walking to YMCA canteen in a nearby trench to get provisions to share with his unit as part of his celebration when a shell burst a few metres away, killing him instantly. *“Instantly killed by shell fire, on the morning of September 18th, 1917, while coming overland from a YMCA to Support Battalion Headquarters, in Anxious Lane East of Vimy Ridge.”* Before enlisting, he had been working at the Ottawa Car Works ⁸⁴. His burial is at Villers Station Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. There was a memorial plaque that was originally located at the Billings Bridge Orange Hall and now in the Gloucester Museum collection. His widow remarried to John Banning on the 4 December 1918. In 1921, she lived with her second husband and daughter at 30 Cumberland Street, Ottawa. She lived until the 21 November 1967 and was buried at Capital Memorial Gardens, Nepean ⁶⁷.



Orange Hall Plaque, Billings Bridge

2 - **James Albert Henderson** was born on the 16 October 1879 in Ottawa. Parents – Nathaniel Henderson and Elizabeth Kinmond. In 1891, he lived with his parents and 5 brothers (William Jackson, Thomas Robert, Charles, John, David) and two sisters (Jane, Mary) on their farm at Lot 5 and 6, Concession 3, Rideau Front, Gloucester. This is located on the west side of Albion Road, north and south of Bank Street. The Henderson farmhouse remains at 3560 Albion Road. In 1901, he lived at the same location with his parents, two brothers and a sister. He married Ella Conroy on the 13 December 1905. Profession – Carpenter. In 1911, he lived with his wife and two sons (John, James) at 334 Mutchmore Street (now Fifth Avenue) and he was a shipper. In 1912, they lived at 338 Fifth Avenue, and he was a warehouse manager. He enlisted on the 15 April 1915 at Port Arthur, Ontario. Next of Kin- Mrs. Ella Henderson (wife), R.R.1, Billings Bridge, then 298 Sunnyside Avenue then 383 Sunnyside Avenue. Previous Military Experience – 43rd and 5th Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, Ottawa for 10 years. Appearance – 5 foot 7 1/2 inches, tanned complexion, blue eyes, fair hair. Rank – Corporal. Medals – His widow received the silver (memorial) cross and the

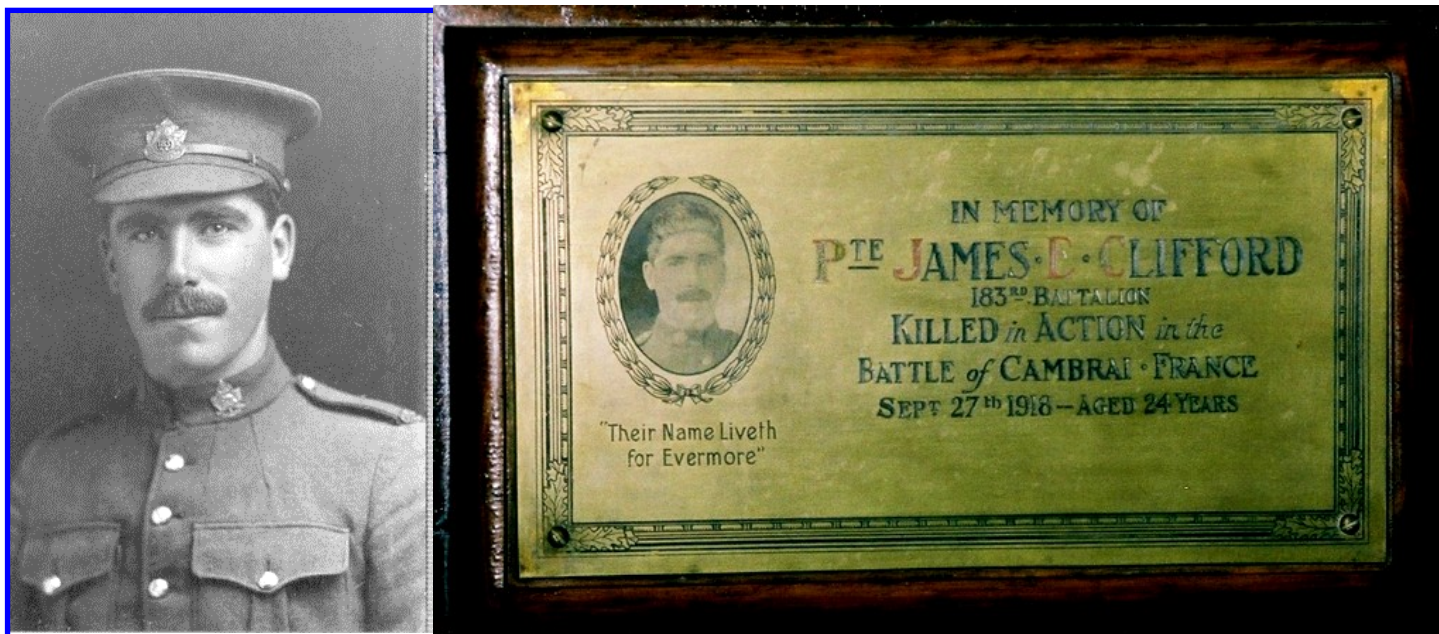
memorial plaque and scroll. Unit – 52nd Battalion Re-enforcement draft then the 32nd Reserve Battalion and finally, the 8th Battalion of the Manitoba Regiment, Canadian Infantry in France. He was transferred to France on the 3 August 1915. He was killed in action on the 26 September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. He is buried at Courcellette British Cemetery, Somme, France. His wife lived at 481 Gladstone Avenue, Ottawa in 1920 and she died on the 9 March 1922. The cause of death was nephritis (inflammation of the kidneys). She is buried at Ramsayville Cemetery, Gloucester. They had 4 sons (John Conroy, James Harold, Charles Douglas and the youngest, Earl Kitchener Henderson, who died in a tragic drowning accident in the Rideau Canal on the 16 August 1920 at age 5. Earl's death record indicates that he is buried at Wood's Cemetery, Bank Street, Gloucester, but he is listed on the family tombstone in Ramsayville Cemetery, Gloucester. A plaque dedicated to James was placed in the Orange Hall, Billings Bridge and can now be found in the Gloucester Museum collection. There are also tombstones dedicated to him in both Wood's Cemetery, Bank Street, Gloucester and Ramsayville Cemetery, Gloucester.



Orange Hall Plaque, Billings Bridge

3 - Ernest James Clifford was born on the 19 April 1894 in Ottawa. His address on enlistment was Warman, Saskatchewan. Parents -William Clifford and Mary Jane Davis. His father died on the 10 November 1897 and is buried at Wood's Cemetery, Gloucester. In 1901, Ernest lived with his mother, Mary, his sisters, Edith and Alice, brother David and a boarder. Mother Mary Jane remarried to John Gillespie on the 19 June 1901. Ernest was a first cousin and neighbour of Howard Clifford, also appearing on this list. In 1911, he was a labourer living with his mother, stepfather, sister Alice and stepsister Ruth Gillespie at Lot 3 Concession 2 Rideau Front, Gloucester. This is on the west side of McCarthy Road where McCarthy Woods is today. Ernest enlisted on the 30 March 1916 at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Next of Kin – Mary (Mrs. John) Gillespie (mother), R.R.2, Billings Bridge, Ontario. Profession – Farmer. Appearance – 5 foot 8 ½ inches, dark complexion, grey eyes, dark brown hair. Rank – Private. Medals – Memorial Cross and Memorial Plaque and Scroll for his mother. Unit – 183rd Battalion, transferred to the 144th Battalion on the 26 October 1916 and then to the 8th Battalion on the 16 February 1917 then the 18th Reserve Battalion. He was treated for a hernia while in Winnipeg from the 17 April 1916 until 28 April 1916. He travelled

from Halifax on the 4 October 1916, on board the S.S. Missanabie, arriving in England on the 13 October 1916 and was stationed at Witley and Seaford. He went to France on the 17 February 1917 and was taken to the field of action on the 19 February 1917. He was treated for influenza while in France from the 3 April 1917 until the 4 May 1917. He returned to the field of action on the 8 May 1917. He suffered a left forearm fracture from shrapnel on the 15 August 1917 and returned to England where he was treated at the 2nd Western General Hospital in Manchester. Once released on the 26 September 1917, he was transferred to Woodcote Park, Epsom, Surrey to complete his recovery. He was exposed to someone with spinal meningitis and was tested as a precaution at the Canadian General Hospital, Moore Barracks, Shorncliffe, Kent on the 23 March 1918 and returned to duty on the 9 April 1918. He was returned to France and the field of action on the 30 May 1918. He was killed in action sometime between the 27 September and the 29 September 1918 during the Battle of Cambrai. He is buried in Haynecourt Briish Cemetery, Nord, France. He was never married and had no children. A plaque was dedicated in his memory at the Orange Lodge, Billings Bridge, and it can now be found as part of the Gloucester Museum collection



Ernest James Clifford

4 - Cecil Samuel Montague Evans was born on the 28 June 1894 in Ottawa. Parents – Samuel Evans and Elizabeth Rebecca Lees. The Evans farm was located northeast of the Bank Street and Heron Road intersection centred on Evans Boulevard. The Evans homestead was formerly located at 1249-1251 Evans Boulevard and demolished in 2015. Father, Samuel Evans died on the 28 May 1898 and with his daughter Rebecca who died in 1894, were initially buried on the Evans farm. They were re-interred at Beechwood Cemetery on the 28 September 1898. His mother remarried to Sidney James Webb on the 26 December 1899. In 1901, Cecil is living with his mother, stepfather, sister Grace and brother Wesley, half sister, Ethel Webb, step aunt, Katie Herron (Webb) and her daughter Lena Herron, and servant Harry Hopkin in Gloucester. He moved to Alberta around 1910 and when the Edson Trail opened in 1911, he was amongst the early settlers to arrive in the Grande Prairie region. In 1911, he is living in the SW Quarter Section, Section 31, Township 72, range 7 west of 6th meridian, just west of Bear Lake with several other men. While living at nearby Lake Saskatoon, which is northwest of Grande Prairie on the 6 November 1912, he was granted land in the southwest quarter section, section 20, township 71, range 2 west of the 6th meridian. This is located near the old Benzason townsite, an abandoned village just west of the Smoky River. It was hoped that the railway would run through there, but when the railway opened in 1916, the town was bypassed, and it was eventually abandoned. The village of Benzason relocated to the northwest on today's Highway 43. Cecil enlisted on the 29 July 1915 at Edmonton, Alberta. Next of Kin – Mrs. Elizabeth R. Webb (mother), 183 Belmont Avenue, Ottawa. Profession – Homesteader. Appearance – 5 foot 4 ½ inches, fair complexion, blue eyes, blonde hair. Rank – Private. Medals – Memorial Cross and Memorial Plaque and Scroll were issued posthumously to his mother. Unit – 66th Overseas Battalion, and he transferred to the 31st Overseas Battalion on the 23 June 1916. He sailed for England on board the S.S. Olympic departing on the 1 May 1916 and arriving on the 7 May 1916. He was stationed at Shorncliffe, Kent. He arrived at Le Havre, France on the 29 June 1916 and was taken to the field of action immediately. He was 'missing' on the 15 September 1916 and later (not until June 1917) declared killed in action on that date. This was during the Battle of Courcellette. His name appears at the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. He was never married and had no children. . A plaque was dedicated to his memory at

the Orange Lodge, Billings Bridge, and it can now be found as part of the Gloucester Museum collection. His mother died on the 18 December 1926, and she was buried in Beechwood Cemetery ⁸⁵.

Reported in the Ottawa Journal on the 31 October 1916:

“Private Cecil S. Evans, who is reported in the casualty as ‘missing’, enlisted in Calgary about a year ago and went overseas last spring. He is very well and favorably known in Ottawa and has several relatives living here. His mother, Mrs. L. West (Webb), resides at 183 Belmont Avenue, and he has one sister and a brother also living here. He left Ottawa to go west about six years ago and since then has been in the Province of Alberta. Private Evans is about 22 years of age.”

Reported in the Ottawa Citizen on the 1 November 1916

“Private Cecil Evans is Reported Missing Letter to Mother Just Before Fateful Charge Private Cecil S. Evans, 183 Belmont Street, reported missing in the official list of casualties, is 22 years of age. He enlisted for overseas service in June 1915, and left Canada in April this year. He was sent to the firing line on his birthday in June last

On September 9th, when preparations were being made before going into action in the battle of the Somme, Private Evans wrote a long letter to his mother, Mrs. Eliza Webb, in which he stated that he was going to the front line of trenches inside of a few days and he expressed uncertainty as to what was about to happen. The letter reached home on September 18th, three days after he had been reported missing.

Private Evans enlisted out West, where he had been farming for a number of years.”

From the Grande Prairie Herald:

“Throws Some Light on Death of C. Evans

The following letter will throw some light on the mystery surrounding the death of Cecil Evans reported missing:

March 29th, 1917

My Dear Wife:

I received twenty-five letters today; nineteen were from you. I see by the Grande Prairie Herald that Cecil Evans death seems a mystery. I can explain some day the full particulars of how he was killed. It was not Lieutenant Service who was killed with him, but Lieutenant Swain, of the 66th. I was one of the two, with the aid of Lieutenant Jellett (recently killed) who buried him under fire of German guns. I cannot say more now, only this; Cecil died like a hero with his face toward the foe, as all Grande Prairie boys do. We have seen some fighting, and more is just ahead, but we hope and trust that we will be home before another winter. Victory is assured or we are not Britishers.

Let people know about Cecil as he would want all to know, and I hope soon to be able to tell all about his death.

Greater love hath no man than this; that a man lay down his life for his friends.

*Fred R. Smith, 101,275
49th Battalion”*

From the Ottawa Citizen on the 7 June 1917:

“Private Cecil Evans is Reported Dead

*Had Been Missing Since October 16 Last –
Mother Here Notified.*

Mrs. Sydney I. Webb, 183 Belmont Avenue, has received official notification from the militia department that her son, Private Cecil S. Evans, has been reported dead. He had been previously reported missing in October, 1916, and no word has been received from him since. A letter was received from one of his companions a short time after he was missing, and said that he had seen Private Evans

lying dead after a big engagement. He enlisted with a Western battalion in July, 1915, and had been in the trenches for three months.

In his last letter, which was received on the 9th of September, he was well. He also mentioned that he was preparing to go up to the front-line trenches. Private Evans was 22 years of age, and was born and brought up in Ottawa. He moved to Grand Prairie when he was 16 years of age, where he purchased a farm. Besides his mother he leaves a step-father, Mr. Sydney I. Webb, three step-sisters, Mrs. G. Smiley, Eva and Ethel Webb, all of Ottawa; also one brother, Wesley Evans and one step-brother, Harold Evans (Webb), both of Ottawa.

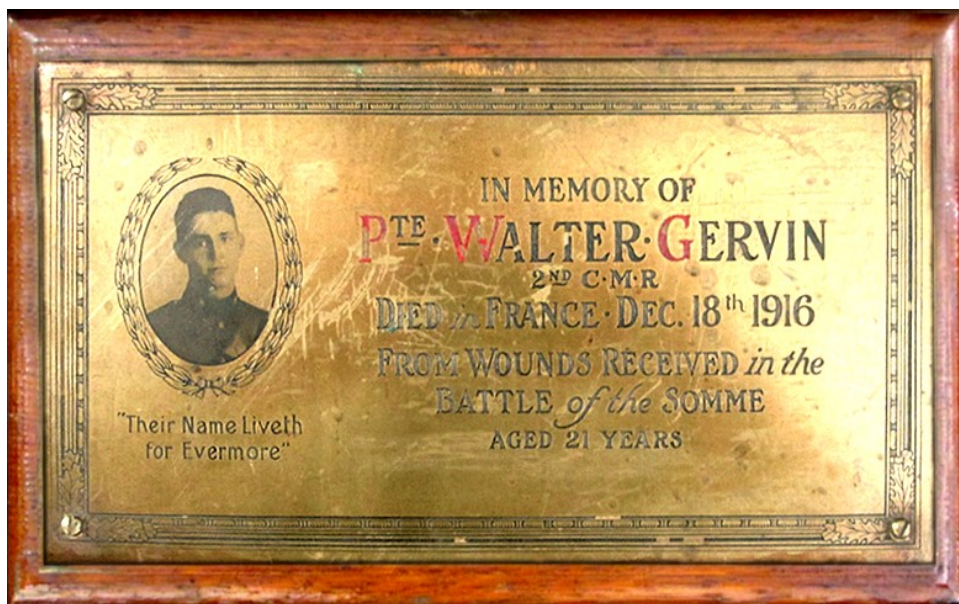
Note: Lake Saskatoon, Alberta is described in Wikipedia: “The area chosen for the community was the south half of the northwest quarter of section 2, township 72, range 8, west of the sixth meridian. A subdivision was registered in September 1912. It was a 76-acre parcel of land laid out with five streets, with 260 lots. At one point, Lake Saskatoon had a number of businesses including a Bank of Commerce, a trading post, a flour mill, a blacksmith shop, a hardware store, a pool hall and a telegraph office. The population would have been over 100 residents. The post office was established in 1909 as Beaver Lodge Post Office but changed its name to Lake Saskatoon in 1912. In 1924, when it became certain that the railway would not link the community, shops and offices were picked up and transported to a new site, namely Wembley. The community of Lake Saskatoon was abandoned. The post office of-
ficially closed in 1927.”



Died of Wounds

5 - Walter Gervin was born on the 14 February 1894 in Ottawa. Parents – Joseph Gervin and Elizabeth Smith. The Gervin family lived in Rideau Park, Billings Bridge (Lot 17 Junction Gore, Gloucester, now 471 Pleasant Park Road but the original house no longer exists), and Joseph was an engineer. The Gervin family lived at this address from 1902 until 1946. In 1901, Walter is living with his parents in Gloucester and sisters Maud, Dorothy and Annie and brother James (Douglas). In 1911, he is living in Gloucester with his parents, brothers Douglas and Roland, and sisters Dorothy, Annie, Amy and Margarie . Walter enlisted on the 16 January 1915 at Ottawa. Next of Kin – Joseph Gervin (father), Billings Bridge, Ontario. Profession – Carpenter. Appearance – 6 foot ½ inches, dark complexion, brown eyes, black hair. Rank – Private. Unit – 8th Canadian Mounted Rifles, transferred to the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles on the 19 September 1915. He was stationed at Canterbury, England on the 3 August 1915 and Shorncliffe, Kent on the 19 September 1915. He landed in France on the 22 September 1915. He suffered an accidental gun shot wound to the right arm on the 14 July 1916, but returned to his unit on the 18 July 1916. On the 20 November 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, he suffered multiple gunshot wounds

including to the arms, legs and head and was considered 'seriously wounded'. He was slightly better on the December 3rd but after his right arm was amputated on the December 17th, he succumbed to his injuries the following day. Burial location – Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France. He was never married and had no children. It had been intended that he and his brother Douglas establish a business together, but war intervened, and both chose to accept the call of duty. But Douglas was not accepted into service, and Walter went to war alone. Douglas went on to establish the business which became an Ottawa South institution for several decades. It was named J.D. Gervin & Sons, a plumbing and heating business that operated at 1095 Bank Street and starting in 1953 at 1227 Bank Street. A memorial plaque was dedicated to Walter at the Orange Lodge, Billings Bridge which can now be found in the Gloucester Museum collection. His father Joseph lived until the 18 December 1953 and his mother Elizabeth lived until the 19 December 1946 and both were buried at St. George's Hawthorne Anglican Cemetery, Gloucester. Note: Sister Annie was the wife of Edward Sutherland also appearing on this list. They are interred at Hawthorne Cemetery, Gloucester. A longer story about Walter Gervin appears in Historic Gloucester Volume 16 No.3.



Walter Gervin

6 - Robert 'John' Hyndman was born on 15 June 1897 in Fitzroy Harbour, Torbolton Township, Carleton County, Ontario. Parents – Henry Allan Hyndman and Sarah Ann 'Annie' Brown. He is the brother of William Henry Hyndman also on this list. In 1901, he lived on a farm in Torbolton Township with his parents, three sisters, Sarah, Caroline and Emily, and brother William. He and his brother Willie along with other pupils, were involved in establishing a junior branch of the Royal Humane Society of England at Ottawa South (Hopewell Avenue) Public School in 1910¹⁷. In 1911, he lives at Lot 19, Junction Gore, Billings Bridge with his parents, four sisters, Sara, Mabel, Emily and Gladina (Gladis Violet) and four brothers, William, Thomas, Percy and Edward. His father was a labourer. Their residence is at Lot 5 Plan 149, which is 1502 Clementine Boulevard today. John enlisted on the 31 August 1915 in Ottawa. Profession – Teamster. Next of Kin – Mrs. Annie Hyndman (mother), Billings Bridge, Ontario. Rank – Private. Unit – 77th Overseas Battalion. Appearance – 5 foot 7 inches, medium complexion, Grey Eyes, Brown Hair. He sailed from Halifax on the 19 June 1916 on board of the S.S. Missanabie. He arrived in England on the 28 June 1916 and was stationed on Bramshott, Hamp-

shire. He was transferred to 77th Battalion on the 3 July 1916. He travelled to France on the 12 August 1916. He was killed in action in France on the 11 January 1917. He was single and had no children. *'Hyndman enlisted in an Ottawa battalion in June 1915, and sailed for England a short time later where he was drafted to the firing line and connected with a Montreal unit. He had been in the trenches for eight months and took part in many of the heavy engagements. He was in several of the big Somme encounters and experienced many narrow escapes. On Jan. 3, he wrote his last letter to his parents. It reached here just three days ago. In the letter he describes how he passed his Christmas and New Year's in the trenches, and concluded by stating that he was in the best of health and happy. Private Russell Hyndman, a brother, is also in the trenches.'*¹⁸ He died in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, and he was buried at Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. A memorial plaque was dedicated to him at the Orange Lodge, Billings Bridge, which can now be found in the Gloucester Museum collection. Father Henry lived until the 6 September 1942 and mother Annie lived until the 18 March 1953. They are buried in Wood's Cemetery, Bank Street, Gloucester



Robert John Hyndman

Returned (Illness, disability etc., not related to war wounds)

7 - Hans Lawrence Johannsen (Johanson) was born on the 5 March 1884 in Gloucester, Ontario. Parents – Christian Christiansen Johansen and Maria Christina Mittgard. The family had come from Schleswig, Holstein, Germany but were of Danish descent. They immigrated to Canada in 1882. Passenger records suggest that they travelled on board the S.S. Circassian departing from Liverpool England on the 19 October 1882, arriving in Quebec City on the 29 October 1882. They were husband and wife, a child, age 2 and an infant. Hans was the first child born in Canada. In 1891, the family lived on west half of Lot 13, Concession 4, Rideau Front, Gloucester. This is on the east side of Albion Road about halfway between Lester Road and Leirim Road. This property was shared with the Ellis family. The census of that year had Hans living in Gloucester with his parents, sisters Christina, Mary and Genny and brothers, Christian and Charles. His father was a farmer. Hans's father died on the 24 March 1893. In 1914 and 1915, Hans was a member of the Billings Bridge Orange Lodge. He first enlisted on the 16 August 1915 in Arcola, Saskatchewan. Next of Kin – Mary Johannsen (mother), Billings Bridge, Ontario. His second enlistment was on the 27 January 1917 at Ottawa. Address – 145 Cameron Avenue, Ottawa. Next of Kin – Mary Johannsen (mother), 382 Gilmour Street, Ottawa. Profession – Mechanic. Previous Military Service – 48th Overseas Battalion. Appearance – 5 foot 7 ³/₄ inches, fresh complexion, blue eyes, brown hair. Rank – Sergeant. Unit – 48th Overseas Battalion, 256th Battalion, Railway Construction Corps, transferred to the 257th Battalion on the 13 February 1917 at Bath, Ontario, then the 68th Battalion. On his first enlistment, he arrived in England on the 5 October 1915. He was stationed at West Sandling, Shorncliffe, Bath, and Folkestone. He served for 11 days in France in 1916. He was declared medically unfit for military service and had returned to Quebec on the 17 April 1916 travelling on board the S.S. Scandinavian. He was diagnosed with a cardiac condition. On his second enlistment, his address was Rainston, Saskatchewan. He left Canada on the 16 February 1917 on board HMS Missanabie, arriving in England on the 27 February 1917. He was stationed at Purfleet, Essex. He was suffering from Myalgia on the 8 March 1917 and taken to the Mili-

tary Hospital and was seriously ill with Rheumatic Fever on the 20 March 1917 and transferred to the King's Canadian Red Cross Convalescent Hospital at Bushey Park, Hampton Hill on the 30 April 1917. He was discharged from the hospital on the 27 June 1917 with aortic and mitral insufficiency (heart valve disease) and declared permanently unfit for war service. He was returned to Quebec arriving on the 16 September 1917. Discharge Date – 16 September 1917 at Quebec. Proposed Address – General Delivery, Medicine Hat, Alberta. Death Date – 6 January 1919. Cause of Death – Pneumonia. A victim of the Spanish Flu epidemic? Burial Location – Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa⁵⁹. He was never married and had no children. Profession – Traveller. His mother lived until 1927, having moved to Montana by 1920 to live with her daughter Mary.

A March 2, 1916 medical report identified Hans' major health problem: "*Cause of Disability: Rhematic Endocarditis. Origin of Disability: 1898. Applicant has been troubled with shortness of breath since he was 12 years of age, but it did not interfere much with his civil work. He had his first attack of inflammatory rheumatism at 12 years of age. His last attack was from November 1912. He was in bed nearly six months, and unable to work until March 1914. Between the first and last attacks, he had seven, which lasted about two months. September 1914, he had typhoid when he was nine weeks in hospital. Enlisted in August 1915. Came to England in September 1915. Two weeks after landing while on route march, he had to fall out. Was on light duty until November while on a route march was taken with a weak spell and pain in the chest. He was forced to fall out and was taken home in an ambulance. Has occasionally spit up blood. When he had typhoid, he had phlebitis of the left leg. Present Condition – Short of breath, easily tired on slight exertion. No urinary symptoms. No swelling of the feet, but a little of the left calf. Apex displace one and half inches outside the nipple line. Double murmur over tricuspid valve, transmitted over the upper chest and root of the neck. Diastolic murmur of the apex. Pulse regular 88*"

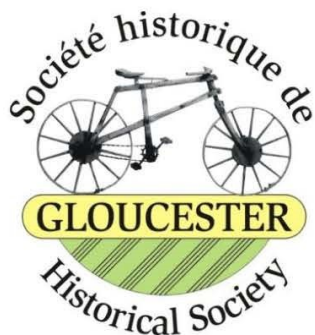


The Johannsen family came to Canada in 1882 on board the S.S. Circassian, an Allan Line Ship

8 - Fred James Ellis was born on the 15 November 1893 in Ottawa. Parents – William Frederick Howard Ellis and Sophia Eleanor Hunt. In 1901, he is living in Gloucester with his parents, sisters Ruth and Sophia and brothers, George and Henry (Harry). His father was a farmer. In 1911, he is living with his parents in Gloucester and sisters Ruth, Edith, Elizabeth, Mary, Fanny and Alice and brothers, George and Henry (Harry). In 1914, he and his father lived at Lot 5 Concession 3, Rideau Front Gloucester. The Ellis house still survives at 2400 Bank Street. Perhaps a good friend of Cecil Evans, he followed him out to Lake Saskatoon, Alberta in 1914 and applied for a homestead on the 24 October 1914 at the Northwest Quarter Section, Section 31, Township 70, Range 8 west of the 6th meridian. This is southwest of Lake Saskatoon just beyond the end of Highway 724. He enlisted on the 29 July 1915 in Edmonton, Alberta. Next of Kin – William Ellis (father), Billings Bridge, Ontario. Profession – Farmer. Appearance - 5 foot 10 inches, dark complexion, brown eyes, black hair. Unit – 66th Battalion then the 46th Queen's Battery, 33rd Battery 9th Brigade Canadian Field Artillery. Rank – Gunner. He embarked from St. John, New Brunswick on the 4 February 1916, arriving in Plymouth, England on the 14 February 1916, transported on the S.S. Metagama, He was stationed at Milford Camp, Surrey, then Woolwich, Greenwich, Greater London on the 16 June 1916. He arrived in Le Havre, France on the

15 July 1916 then to the field of action with the 9th brigade of Canadian Field Artillery on the 25 March 1917. He left France on the 30 October 1917. He was discharged on the 14 December 1917 to take a commission in Royal Naval Air Service. He served in air service from the 16 December 1917 until the 1 May 1919 with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He returned on leave to Canada on RMS Adriatic from Liverpool, England to New York on the 23 October 1918. He was discharged on the 1 May 1919 at Kingston, Ontario, Post Discharge Address – 27 Wellington Street, Kingston, Ontario. Education – B. Sc. At the time of the 1921 census, he was residing with the Lowe family in Bowmanville, Ontario while attending the School of Mining. He married in Bowmanville, Ontario, to Nellie 'Nell' Gertrude Gould on the 24 December 1921. Profession – Chemical Engineer. He resided in Iroquois Falls, Ontario in 1921, and 1924 and Montreal in 1933. He lived at 135 Percival Street, Mount Royal, Quebec in 1931, and had 3 sons, Stanley Edward, William Douglas Gould, and Frederick James, and 1 daughter, Dorothy Eleanor at that time. He was a combustion engineer. Death – 1961. He was buried in Bowmanville Cemetery, Bowmanville, Ontario. His wife lived until the 8 February 1975.

(Continued in the next edition of Historic Gloucester)



**The Gloucester Historical Society
Presents
“Thanks for the Memories”
by Claudette Cain Coulas
(last mayor of Gloucester)**



**Sunday, April 7, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Location: Gloucester South Seniors' Centre
4550 Bank Street, Gloucester**

**Open to the Public, Free parking and admission, Bus Route 93 nearby
A brief Annual General Meeting will precede the presentation.**



The Gloucester Historical Society acknowledges financial assistance of the City of Ottawa

**THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY ROOM WILL
 BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY FOR NOW.
 LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET
 (ENTER FROM LEITRIM ROAD, NEXT TO THE FIRE STATION)
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 Glenn Clark at english@gloucesterhistory.com or
 Call 613-822-2076 and leave a message.**

Historic Gloucester is published by The Gloucester Historical Society quarterly. It is intended as a Newsletter to members of the Society to provide interesting articles on Gloucester’s past and to keep them informed of publications available, upcoming events and other items of general interest. Comments, suggestions and potential articles are always welcome.



*Gloucester Historical Society gratefully acknowledges
 the financial support of the City of Ottawa.*

To renew or become a new member, please complete this form and return it to the address below with your cheque. Memberships may also be purchased on our website.

Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester
 (Membership year runs from April 1 to March 31.)

Annual Membership - \$20.00 for one year _____ 10 year Membership \$150.00 _____

NAME: _____ Email Address: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Telephone # _____

CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

Check here if you wish to receive your Newsletters by e-mail only. (E-Mail address required above)

Donations are always welcome. We are a registered charitable organization and provide tax receipts.

Mailing Address: Gloucester Historical Society
 4550B Bank Street.
 Gloucester, Ontario
 K1T 3W6
 Tel: 613-822-2076