

# The Pioneer Times

(News vehicle of the Cloyne and District Historical Society)



**Cloyne and District Historical Society**

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Preserving the Past for the Future

Volume 7 #2 November 2009



## ***The Pioneer Times***

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The Cloyne and District Historical Society is  
a Registered Charitable Organization,  
organization number 89756 8217.



## **Chairman's Message**

*by Carolyn McCulloch*

**What** a full and adventurous year we have had at the Cloyne and District Historical Society. It started around a campfire where we were reading "Place Names in Ontario". We noticed that the Cloyne Post Office received its name in 1859, one hundred and fifty years ago. The end of this story is elsewhere in our Newsletter.

The Cloyne Museum has become a must-see for those visiting the Land O'Lakes. Under the careful direction of Marg Axford and Ian Brumell, the collection has increased and attracts visitors from around the globe. Come in and read their favourable comments in our guest book. This past summer, through various grants, we were able to have four students archiving in the Cloyne Museum. Thanks to our newest trainee, Daryn Bolland, the work is still in progress, and will be until the end of December.

We strive to bring you informative visitors on the third Monday of each month. Orland French showed us his aerial views of Cloyne. Eugene Fytch explored the mystery of Ontario's log fences, Fred Watts took us back thousands of years to the Champlain Sea, and Larry Cotton surprised us with tales of the rugged days of *Whiskey and Wickedness* in the lumber shanties. Both Eugene and Larry have authored books that are now on sale in the Museum.

Our love of bus tours never ends; we visited Lang Pioneer Village and its Mill in June and the historic Opeongo Road in September. We host information booths at both the North Addington Education Centre's Craft Show and the Trappers Workshop.

Keep in touch with us with your patronage and membership. If you are nearby, join us in our meetings. Support our fundraising.

Have a wonderful fall season.



## Membership/Patron/Donation Form

**Over** the years there has been some confusion about how members of the Cloyne and District Historical Society can contribute to and become more involved in our operations. Whereas we would just love all members to become active participants in the day-to-day operations of the organization, (we have lots of projects if you're interested), we fully realize that folks from out of the area, although interested in helping, may not be able to participate actively due to distance.

It is with this in mind that we have designed the inserted form outlining all of the ways that a member, or anyone for that matter, can participate in the ongoing efforts of The Cloyne and District Historical Society.

Financial contributions through any of the avenues indicated help the organization greatly in its abilities and efforts to make the Cloyne and District past available for the future. Funds donated through these avenues have assisted in our acquisition of artifacts, the implementation of the Community and Family Archive, outreach programs for students, developing plans for possible expansion and on-going projects, all of which keep the museum and the society front and center in the Land O'Lakes and, in fact, in the Ontario museum community.

The form is easy to use and complements the very successful renewal materials sent to current Patrons early each year. We would appreciate any comments or contributions, either financial or verbal, using the form in this newsletter. Having it in this format, as an insert, also means that you don't need to tear your newsletter apart to make a donation.

Please let us know how you feel about this format.

*Ian Brumell*

### Genealogical Reminder

**To save a whole lot of time, be sure to "Bookmark" those important genealogy websites to your computer.**

## Pioneer Museum Patron Program

*by Marcella Neely*

**Once** again we have been able to cover the cost of the Pioneer museum's liability insurance. Thank you to our faithful supporters. We enrolled four additional museum patrons in 2009 and are still looking for more. Anyone signing up this fall will be considered paid up for 2010.

At our display in the Trappers Show last spring, we handed out information and application forms to increase awareness of this program. Handouts were also available at the Cloyne 150 event and are always available at the museum. Some of you have opted to save postage and trees by reading this newsletter online. If others choose to follow, please send an email to: [kmneely@mazinaw.on.ca](mailto:kmneely@mazinaw.on.ca).

**Coming up is our "Old Fashioned Christmas" family get-together on Saturday, December 12th at 1:00 pm. Please join us at the Barrie Township Hall for Christmas entertainment, a sing-song, and a visit from the Jolly Man in Red!**

## Thanks, Trillium!

**Over** 1600 items have been entered into the database since the Archive was established in 2008! And all of those items have been properly stored and can be retrieved quickly. Over 200 copies of the fifth printing/second edition of *The Oxen and The Axe* have been sold since it was release in June of 2008! Both of these projects were made possible because of the Trillium Foundation.

Other funding has been sought to continue the work on the archive, and without Trillium, this important venture would not have begun.

We would encourage everyone to take part in this funding venture by visiting our newly created Community Archive and/or purchasing a copy of the new edition of *The Oxen and The Axe*.

## Keene Bus Trip

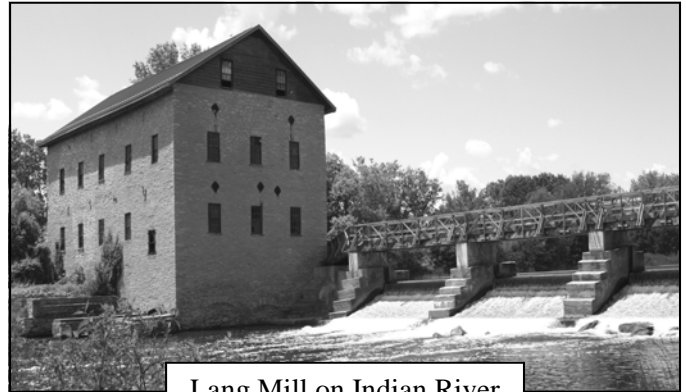
*by Carol Morrow*

**June 15<sup>th</sup>** dawned sunny and warm, and the members of the Cloyne and District Historical Society were on our way to the village of Keene and the Lang Pioneer Village for our summer bus excursion – an annual treat we give ourselves for all the hard work that goes into making our organization and museum a success. So what is the attraction to this place on the outskirts of Peterborough you may ask?

Only that Keene is just about the prettiest little community on the banks of the historic Indian River just before it empties into Rice Lake. Not to mention that Keene is next door to the Lang Pioneer Village, the best example of a working pioneer village this writer has ever seen in Ontario. Upper Canada Village may be the poster child of pioneer villages and get all the kudos that high profile advertising has to offer, BUT for my money Lang puts the Morrisburg venue to shame. For one thing there are over 25 restored and furnished buildings and every one of them was attended by knowledgeable people to answer questions and explain what went on there back in the day. The waters of the Indian River were at high tide in June and flowed peacefully past the quaint pioneer village. It doesn't take much imagination to figure out why settlers of the 1820s chose this spot for a community or why the Langs established their flour and grist mills where such abundant water power was so handy to turn the water-wheels. Wonderful farmland abounds in this corner of Peterborough County and the thriving community served the local farmers.

History in the Peterborough area and especially around Rice Lake is significant. The pioneer village is the site of David Fife's 1820's log cabin. He was the Scottish immigrant who developed the Red Fife wheat which became so popular in Ontario and the USA in the 1840s for its high yields, and by the 1870s was the foundation crop on the Canadian Prairies. Built in 1846, the Mill was constructed of limestone from the Indian River. We were given a tour of the entire building, top to bottom and saw the network of gears and chutes that

carried the wheat and ground the flour from the time it left the farmers' wagons until it emptied out from the hoppers below and was tied in bags for consumption or sale. Visitors are invited to take a turn cranking out the wheat into flour by hand.



Lang Mill on Indian River

The pioneer village opened in 1967 as a centennial project by the County to celebrate and preserve the rural history of the area. Many buildings were donated from within the County. Besides the Mill, the village has lanes and paths joining the various buildings, authentic rail and stump fences, and gardens. The visitor experiences early pioneer life here. Roosters cockadoodle-do and hens cluck from chicken coops, sheep baa and goats naa from pens, pigs root up the muck around a sty. You step back in time in the 1886 South Lake school house. Queen Victoria hangs on the wall; a flat map of the globe graces one corner and the Union Jack another; the alphabet lines the top of the chalk board, and the cast iron wood stove holds court centre back. The student desks form six neat rows, four deep. We entered the Glen Alda church, the 1859 blacksmith shop which was a farrier and iron forging operation, a general store which also served as the post office and drug store, a print shop which in the 1840s published a weekly newspaper *The Register*, and was the voice of the community, a carpenter shop, smoke and ice houses, a drive shed and a shingle mill which was steam powered, and a barn and stables. The Keene Hotel was an authentic country inn from the 1870s when a family operated it as a road house. It offered sleeping accommodations, meals, and a bar.

During the drive to Keene, our tour guide Mary Jane Turner prepared our group for what they



South Lake School, Lang Pioneer Village

would see. She gave us a short history of the community, relating some of the Lang family history and acquainting us with David Fife's contribution. This location is special to Mary Jane because Squire Lang was an ancestor of hers. She spoke of the Lang homestead, supporting her talk with photos from her family album. After arriving at the pioneer village, we spend about an hour in the Lang Mill. Our time there was by appointment so that staff could have the machinery running for us. Then our group enjoyed a lunch of sandwiches and cookies with refreshments, prepared by the church ladies in Keene and served in their church hall. After lunch we could tour the pioneer village on our own. All too soon it was time to get back on the bus for Cloyne, leaving behind this quaint little corner of the world for another time. The Keene trip is a very valuable experience. □



Glen Alda Church, Lang

## Financial Report

*Ian Brumell*

**The** Cloyne and District Historical Society has once again had quite a successful year financially. To date the museum has taken in close to \$4000 from both donations and sales. Since the first of the year, other donations and sales meant that we have brought in around \$5500. Grants and special events have totaled just over \$19,000. Patrons, memberships and other small gifts brought in around \$1725, for a total income of just over \$29,000.

Our big event of the year, covered in more detail in this issue of the newsletter, was the Cloyne 150 celebration of the 150th anniversary of the naming of Cloyne. Financially, this was a break-even event with a budget of around \$8500.

We were able to hire 4 students on grants this summer. The grants came from the Young Canada Works program of The Canadian Museums Association, the Canada Summer Jobs program from Human Resources Development Corporation, the Summer Experience Program of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the Summer Jobs Services program from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Our total employment grants to date have totaled about \$13,000. We still employ a student in our on-going archive project.

Thanks and appreciation go out to the various granting agencies and the wonderful students we had this summer.

We have included with this fall newsletter a complete financial statement to the end of September. This will be an annual report which will bring the current financial picture of our society closer to you.

We will end the year with a reasonable bank balance, no debts, a sizable reserve fund and an even larger endowment fund managed by the Napanee District Community Foundation. This all promises a more secure financial success in the new year. Please see the article about the new form we have inserted which explains the various ways financial assistance may be given to The Society.

Any more specific questions about the financial aspects of the organization are gratefully accepted by email at any time.

Credit goes to **Frank Matacheskie** for the Lang Pioneer Village photos.



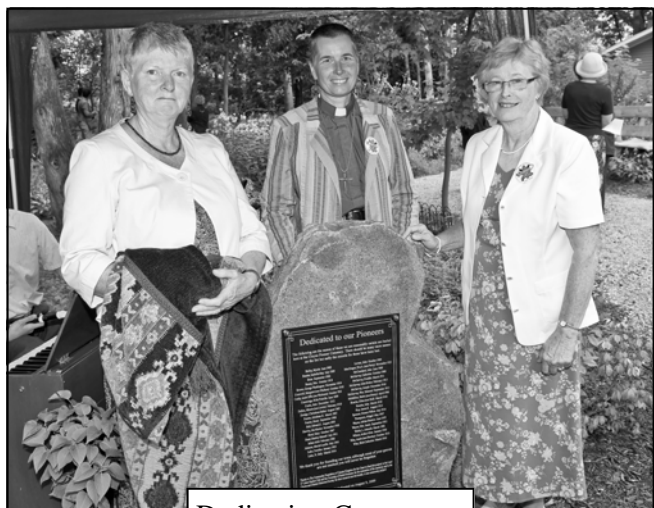
# Cloyne 150 Celebration Cloyne 150 Celebration Cloyne 150



Chain Saw Carving



Trappers Display



Dedication Ceremony

Mary Kelly led Garden Club volunteers who moved rocks, spread soil and planted; Rev. Judith Evenden organized the re-dedication; and Eileen Flieler and other Historical Society members researched the names of those buried in the cemetery.



Diorama of 1880 Cloyne

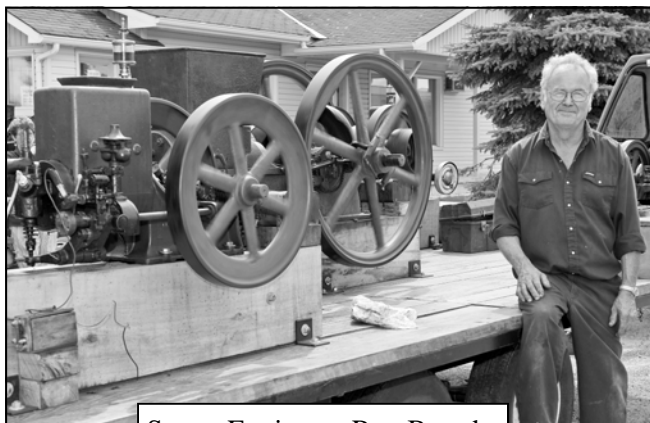
**Over** eight hundred people came out to celebrate one hundred and fifty years of Cloyne history on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> this past summer. It all happened at the Cloyne Museum, the Barrie Township Hall and the Pioneer Cemetery. Local entertainers supplied non-stop music in our newly paved parking lot while past residents, cottagers, people from surrounding communities, descendants from the original pioneering families, and dignitaries from the counties and townships commemorated the colorful history of Cloyne.

We are indebted to the many volunteers who worked so hard to supply both a beef barbeque and pancake breakfast! Community organizations came to display their past and present in the numerous parkland tents.



Refurbished Cloyne Pioneer Cemetery

## *Celebration Cloyne 150 Celebration Cloyne 150 Celebra-*



Steam Engines—Roy Berndt



Quilting Display  
Georgina Hughes



Panning For Gold



Old-time Music by the  
O'Donnell Family—  
Mary and Kevin

Spinning Fleece into  
Yarn, Marilyn Houle



The museum sparkled that day, and of course, all records were broken in the number of visitors attending. There were live demonstrations of spinning and quilting, and the summer staff constructed a model of the buildings that had once existed in Cloyne.

The abandoned cemetery on Little Pond Road had been restored to a beautifully landscaped parkland, and on a rainy Sunday afternoon there was an ecumenical service to rededicate the land. To the sounds of a turn of the century pump organ and an Irish recorder, the names of the early pioneers buried there were unveiled on a plaque.

Thank you being here, Cloyne. Your people worked so hard and had so much fun in preserving the past for the future.

Credit goes to **Dave Deacon** and **Frank Matacheskie**  
for providing the photos of this event.  
Article by **Carolyn McCulloch**.

## New Artifacts

**Summer** always brings new donations to the museum and this year was no exception. We've chosen just four to show you.



The boot jack and butter churn were donated by Glenna Cole.



Glenna tells us that she remembers how annoyed her grandmother was when she chipped the churn, after trying very hard to keep it pristine.

The boot jack belonged to Lemuel Cole, Glenna's great-uncle, who is buried in Dempsey Cemetery.

The lovely Depression glass lamp comes from Kathy Hannah, whose property on Hannah Lake north of Cloyne has been sold. Before closing up the family cottage, Kathy gave us many documents pertaining to its history; they offer a fascinating glimpse into Cloyne in the 1930s and 1940s when the cottage was built.

The discovery of the chair at a local yard sale was very exciting! It belonged to Dr. Tindall who arrived in Flinton in 1903. Unlike other doctors who moved to the area, Dr Tyndall stayed. His name is on many birth and death registrations, not just from Flinton but from all the other hamlets around. His practice continued until his retirement in the 1930s.

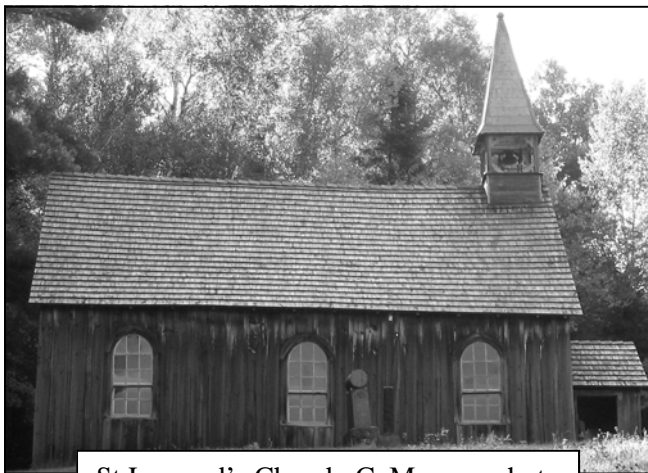


## Opeongo Line Bus Trip

by Cathy Hook

**This** year the historical society took our fall bus tour along the Opeongo Line, one of the colonization roads built to attract settlers to Renfrew County and aid in the lumbering industry. Our onboard tour guides were Bonnie and Harold Walther. Harold grew up in the area and provided insight and information all along the way.

At our first stop we climbed a small hill to reach Rockingham's Historic Church. The former St. Leonard's Anglican Church was built in 1875 on land donated by the town's founder, John Samuel James Watson. A communion rail and organ were added in 1882, a wood stove in 1885 and the belfry and bell in 1891. Services were discontinued in the summer of 1941. The bell, organ and pews were distributed to other churches and the board and batten building fell into a state of disrepair.



St Leonard's Church, C. Morrow photo

In 1975 the Madawaska Association for Development Ecology saved the building from destruction, repaired the back wall, re-shingled the roof and arranged for the pews to be returned. Nothing more was done until 1995 when the Friends of the Rockingham Church formed to take on the restoration. Rotting wooden components were replaced, the roof was re-shingled with new cedar and the steeple re-coated in copper. Restoration was completed in 2000 at which time the original pump organ was returned.

Pioneer settlers who made significant contributions to the community are buried in a small cemetery beside the church.

Wilno became Canada's first Polish settlement with the arrival in 1858 of the Kashubs, a Slavic eth-

nic group from modern-day north-western Poland. They took advantage of the free grant properties on the Opeongo Road and struggled to clear the land and eke out a living in the wilderness.

We arrived in Wilno for lunch and split into two groups so as not to overwhelm. One group headed to the Wilno Tavern Restaurant, a pub which has been offering hospitality for over 100 years, the other group to the Red Canoe Restaurant. A buffet lunch was served at both spots with several cabbage dishes featured (I'm sure that if you can make cake out of zucchini you can make cookies out of cabbage but contrary to what Ken may have suggested the Red Canoe did not serve cabbage cookies on their buffet table.)

After lunch we had time to tour the shops, galleries and artist studios and the Polish Kashub Heritage Museum and Park. The park is a project of the Wilno Heritage Society and officially opened in 2002. The Park and Museum now includes three old-style log buildings, two smaller wooden buildings and a large timber frame machine shed. The focal point is the log farmhouse, opened in 2008 as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the arrival of the Kashubs.

A short distance away on Hwy #60 is St. Mary's Church, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Queen of Poland, the oldest Polish church in Canada. The impressive twin spired church sits on a rise overlooking the Wilno hills. Built mostly by hand with local labour, the church was completed in 1937 and replaced the earlier chapel of St. Stanislaus Kostka which burned to the ground in 1936. The original cemetery, although no longer used for burials, is maintained by descendants of the original Kashub settlers.

St. Mary's holds an annual church supper every Labour Day Weekend, a tradition for over 65 years. Approximately 2500 people are served the number one food of the Kashubs – not cabbage rolls or perogies, but chicken.



Polish Kashub Heritage Museum, C. Hook photo

Our trip so far had taken us to the oldest and first; our next stop was to the highest. Foymount claims to be the highest point of human habitation in Ontario at 1800 feet above sea level. In 1950, construction began on RCAF Station Foymount as part of the Pine Tree Line of detection. Canada operated three lines of radar facilities in those years for the detection of Soviet aircraft. The most northerly was the DEW (Distant Early Warning) Line; the most southerly was the Pine Tree Line. Two years of construction created a self-contained air force radar base with a population of more than 400. The base had a curling rink, swimming pool, bowling alley, gymnasium, church, hospital, married quarters, and water and sewage systems. In the 1970s, military downsizing and more powerful radar facilities elsewhere led to the closing of the base.

In 1982, a Toronto businessman purchased a 15,000-square foot barracks for \$4,000, moved in Black Water Designs Limited and started to manufacture outdoor clothing for Sierra Designs. At one time it was the largest employer between Pembroke and Renfrew with 70 employees. Now only a factory outlet remains. A sign of the times, the tags in the clothing I purchased during our visit said "Made in China".

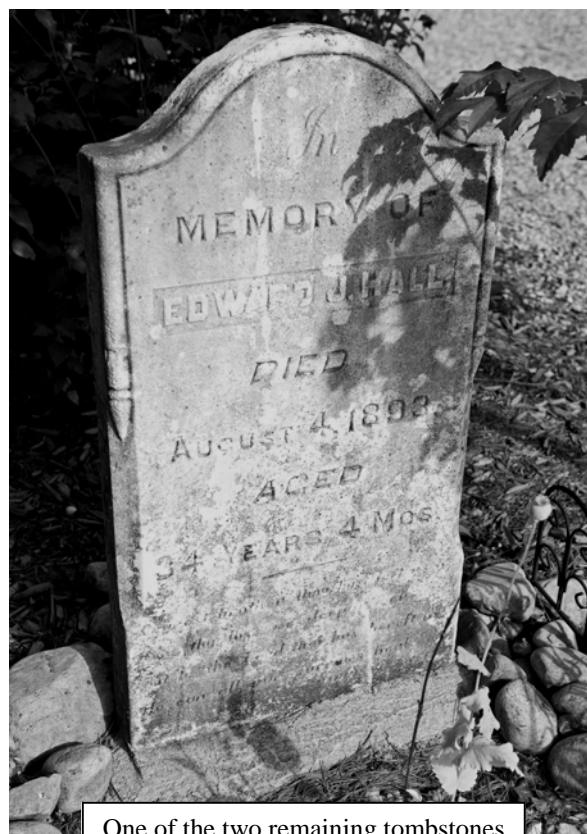
We were a bit late arriving at our last stop, the Sebastopol Heritage and Historical Society Museum, a log cabin moved to its present location on Highway 64, a spot on the Opeongo Road near Lake Clear. The museum is closed for the season but for us they opened. Their museum is another example of what we witnessed all day, dedicated groups of volunteers coming together to preserve their local history.

We arrived home at 4:30 pm with a round of appreciation for our tour guides, for Marg and her expert arrangements (she drove the route the week before just to make sure it would come together as it did) and for our bus driver Cathy Meeks who credited her expertise to the effective teaching of John Bolton. This year John got to enjoy the trip from a different perspective.

Where to next year?



The New Plaque for Cloyne Pioneer Cemetery



One of the two remaining tombstones  
Photos from Dave Deacon

## World War I Recruitment

*By Marg Axford*

In 1914, news had significantly fewer ways of travelling than it does today. A person looking back almost 100 years might be forgiven for thinking that the farm boys in Flinton or Vennachar might not even know about the war that was suddenly happening half a world away. However, a look at the cenotaphs in Flinton and Denbigh reveals a different truth. Many young men from here enlisted to fight in this war; many did not return.

So why did they sign up? Several factors come into play. There was the hometown military parade complete with bands, flags, veterans of the Boer War, cars filled with dignitaries, all designed to engender feelings of patriotism and pride in the onlookers. In areas like ours, where the opportunities for this sort of parade were more limited, there were other motivators. From their pulpits, pastors and priests exhorted young men to fight for the preservation of democracy. Recruiters were hired to comb throughout rural Canada, searching for healthy young men. Locally, young farm boys were told that if they signed up, they would spend the winter training in Kingston, where they would receive a small stipend, and be home to plant the crops in the spring. This would be appealing for several reasons, among them the lure of the city and the thought of having a bit of spending money at a time when there was very little of that.

With no radio or TV or telephone, posters were an effective way to reach many people. Those of you who have been to the Cloyne Pioneer Museum will have noticed four very large, brightly coloured reproductions of WWI posters. Thanks to Kay Wright of Harlowe, who donated these to us, we are able to appreciate just how effective they would have been as propaganda devices. According to an online article "Recruitment during the First World War" by Dr Serge Durflinger <http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/explore/military-history/dispatches/french-canada-and-recruitment-during-the-first-world-war>, "recruiting posters remain snapshots in time, helping historians understand the issues and moods of the past. They indicate the underlying social, cultural and political strains which affected Canada's war effort and influenced military policy."

Music too became an interesting factor. Several patriotic songs were written in the early years of the war, sometimes by men who, ironically, were using this work as a way of avoiding enlistment! Be that as it may, the songs were reflections of the morality of the day, with

duty to King and country being a profound motivator, at least in English Canada. Space doesn't permit a close look at the complex and deeply political reactions of French Canada to this involuntary involvement of Canada in a war beyond her borders.

Certainly there were as many reasons for signing up as there were young men who did so. If there were veterans of other wars in the family, if a boy's friends or brothers were joining, if the need for money was sharp - all of this and more would be going through a young man's mind. And let's not forget that this was termed a "glorious" war, the "war to end all wars". There were no hazards, at least none that were talked about. The war would end quickly and it would be lots of fun. Who wouldn't want to be involved? Wilfred Laurier's words summed up the official public attitude to the war: "there is in Canada but one mind and one heart and that all Canadians are behind the Mother Country conscious and proud that she has engaged in this war, to save civilization from unbridled lust of conquest and power."

The reality and the heartbreak would come later.



Do you have a story about an ancestor who went to fight in WWI? The Historical Society would be interested in hearing from you, either by mail to Box 228, Cloyne or by email to [pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca](mailto:pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca), or by phone to 613-336-2203.

## Reference Books for Genealogy or Local History Studies

1. Frontenac County: County of 1,000 Lakes  
    Away back in Clarendon-Miller  
    Back of Sunset, a history of Central Frontenac  
    Way Back in Frontenac (Northern Townships) - Census Information from 1860-1900  
    Memories, by Eleanor Flieler
2. Lennox and Addington County: The Smiling Wilderness  
    Historical Glimpses of Lennox and Addington  
    Way Back in Addington (Northern Townships)-Census Information  
    from 1860 to 1900  
    The Story of Old Hay Bay Church
3. Cloyne/Bon Echo: Bon Echo - The Denison Years  
    The Mazinaw Experience  
    The Oxen and the Axe  
    Unto These Hills  
    The Art of Bon Echo  
    Sunset of Bon Echo
4. Denbigh: This Was Yesterday
5. Flinton: Village on the Skoot
6. Northbrook: When I Was a Boy - The David Trumble Story
7. Ottawa Valley: Eganville, Jewel of the Bonnechere  
    Lumber Kings and Shantymen - Logging and Lumbering in the Ottawa Valley  
    Heart and Soul- Portraits of Canada's Ottawa Valley
8. Matawatchan: St. Andrews United Church, Matawatchan  
    The Carswell Story - 350 Years of Pioneering History  
    The Strong Family - 150 Years in Canada  
    Matawatchan, A Glimpse into the Past
9. Eastern Ontario: Whiskey and Wickedness  
    Historic Sites and Monuments of Kingston and District  
    Land Roll Book - Land Agent Records 1865-1893 for South Canonto, Palmerston,  
    Clarendon-Miller, Abinger, Denbigh, Hinchinbrooke and Olden Townships  
    Where the Heck is Balaheck? - Unusual Place names in Eastern Ontario  
    Chalk, Challenge and Change - Stories from Women Teachers in Ontario, 1920-1979

These books can be borrowed from the museum on a sign-out list. Contact Margaret Axford for this.