

ELGIN AND AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer/Fall 2022

Box 480, Elgin, Ontario K0G 1E0



Greetings from EAHS in 2022



EAHS board on a recent boat tour of the Big Rideau (in appreciation for the generosity of Glen Russell, designer of the Elgin storyboards)
Seated: Ted Dwyre, Carol Russell, Michelle Sled, Mary Carty; Middle Row: Debbie Hamilton, Keith Haskins, Diane Haskins; Back Row: Glen Russell, Clinton Halladay, Tom Sled (guide), Tom Hamilton, Dale Diamond (guide), Mary Roantree, Doug Roantree. Absent are Jane Campbell, Joe Hamilton, Bill Murray and Joan Mustard. Please join the EAHS on Oct 1 for the unveiling of the Elgin's storyboards.

The Elgin and Area Heritage Society is delighted to be able to resume, at least partially, a summer program. On the 28th and 29th of May, we marked Heritage Week by joining with the Leeds Heritage Network in opening the doors of the Red Brick School to a relaunch of our 2019 display "Creating a Community". Our visitors once again displayed great interest in discovering more background into the pioneering families who contributed so much to the community we enjoy today.

On July 9th, during Elgin Days, we held our traditional yard sale at the Red Brick School and had great fun watching as treasure hunters, not only pick up great bargains, but also enjoyed catching up with old friends whom they have missed seeing over the past couple of years.

We have been busy, as well, with a couple of significant projects which are described in the newsletter. We have even more to come in 2022.... Read on....

Events to Keep in Mind:

- **Sunday, August 28, 2:00 – 4:00 pm: "Music in the Park"** EAHS will sponsor a concert by the Beverley Trio in Heritage Park, Elgin. Admission is free. Bring your own chair. No Rain Date. See page 7 for more details.
- **Saturday, October 1, 2:00 pm: Unveiling Ceremony for Three Historic Storyboards.** All are invited to this significant community event. See page 3 to get background on this remarkable project that focuses in a visible and permanent manner on Elgin's past. You will want to join us.
- **November 2022: Opening of "World War I: Elgin Platoon: the Story of Two Soldiers"** A new permanent exhibit will be unveiled in the Red Brick School. Anticipated date for this event is November 11 but it is unconfirmed at this point. Please watch for flyers and check local print and social media, especially the EAHS Facebook page and our website at eahs.ca for exact details. Pages 2 and 3 of this Newsletter provide extensive background information on the scope of this coming exhibit.

Articles You Will Want to Read:

- **The Amazing World of Clifford Pennock**, by Glen Russell, designer of the soon to be installed Elgin storyboards. He has shared two pages of a seven paged article with us. Turn to pages 4 and 5 to view the sample. The entire work may be accessed via our website at eahs.ca.
- **Why Elgin Grew in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century**, by Neil Patterson. Neil, who commands a wealth of historic details about the area, shares with us some of these gems that relate to Elgin's late 19th century's prosperity. Check out pages 6 and 7.

World War I Elgin Platoon: the Story of Two Soldiers

EAHS has currently launched an exciting project which will see the establishment in the Red Brick School of a permanent display of artifacts and memorabilia from World War I. Two local families make this event possible through their donations to EAHS of memorabilia from family members who were engaged in combat with the Elgin platoon during the 1914 -1918 conflict. Marilyn Lake and her brother Keith Burtch have gifted us with treasures from their great uncle, Martin James Flynn, a casualty of that conflict. Bruce Cooper has, similarly, entrusted to us an extensive package of material from the war experience of his grandfather, Arthur Thomas Cooper.

The collections include a variety of materials – pictures, letters, postcards, pins, badges; of particular interest are Martin James Flynn's military belt and a bugle, military tunic and cap belonging to Arthur Cooper. All of the items provided by these two families are of a high standard, not to mention their intrinsic value to us due to their direct connection to the local area. A careful study of this material brings home to all of us the devastating impact of war on our families and communities no matter neither the place nor the time.

EAHS is hopeful that the display will be completed and open for viewing this November. A museum design company, County Workhouse of Prince Edward County has been retained to assist with the display. The exact date of the exhibit opening has yet to be confirmed but it is the intent of EAHS to have the exhibit available for public viewing by Remembrance Day. Please be watchful through local print and social media, especially the Elgin and Area Heritage web page and Facebook sites, for announcements regarding the scheduling of the unveiling of the project.



Shown here to the left is Arthur Cooper's military tunic and above is pictured his bugle. Following below is more detailed information on and a picture of Martin James Flynn's military belt.

Military Belt of Martin James Flynn 1818-1918

Martin James Flynn's (or as he was commonly known - Jim Flynn) belt is referred to as a "Stable Belt" which was usually in Regimental colours or designs to identify a soldier's unit when in working dress.

This belt was a standard issue belt; the unit you were in determining which belt you wore. Most men used a belt like this at the front. During WW1 a non-distinctive belt in "apple green" was also issued to all men.

Badges or pins attached to Jim's belt were gifts from fellow soldiers which would have been traded one for one. The Jim Flynn belt has 30 badges and several are quite distinctive including the cap badges from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and a badge from Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. These badges would indicate different units Jim had come in contact with or units in which he had served. *(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 3)

The belts with the badges would not have been worn at the front but kept back with all of their personal gear. The apple green belt would have been part of the uniform at the front.



Personal effects that were kept at the rear, either went home with the men, or, if they were KIA, were returned to the next of kin. This belt with badges was most likely in Jim's kit.

A designated group of men collected the personal belongings of soldiers KIA and these items were then returned to the family.
(Submitted by Bill Murray)

Cliff Pennock's Artistry Contributes to Three Storyboards in Elgin:

During the past year EAHS has sought to capture, pictorially, the history of the Elgin community resulting in the creation of the 'Historic Elgin' storyboard. In the process the board members became increasingly aware of the skills of a former resident, Clifford Pennock, who, through his camera work, brilliantly documented life in South Crosby 1900-1920. From that intensive, and at times frustrating, search for his images and the assistance of numerous individuals two more storyboards were created: 'The Artistry of Clifford Pennock' and the 'The World of Clifford Pennock'.

Please join the EAHS on Saturday, Oct 1st 2:00 pm. for a celebration of the work of Clifford Pennock and the history of Elgin with the community presentation of these storyboards.

EAHS wishes to note the generosity of a former member, Douglas Halladay, whose commitment to his community and his generosity to the heritage organization have made these storyboards possible. As well we appreciate the multi-talented Glen Russell for his assistance with the design of these reminders of Elgin's past. All is possible because of the many faithful supporters of the EAHS.

ELGIN AND AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021 - 2022

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Mary Roantree		613-359-5979
Tom Hamilton	Treasurer	613-928-2478
Mary Carty	Secretary	613-359-6479
Joan Mustard	(Membership Sec.)	613-359-5789

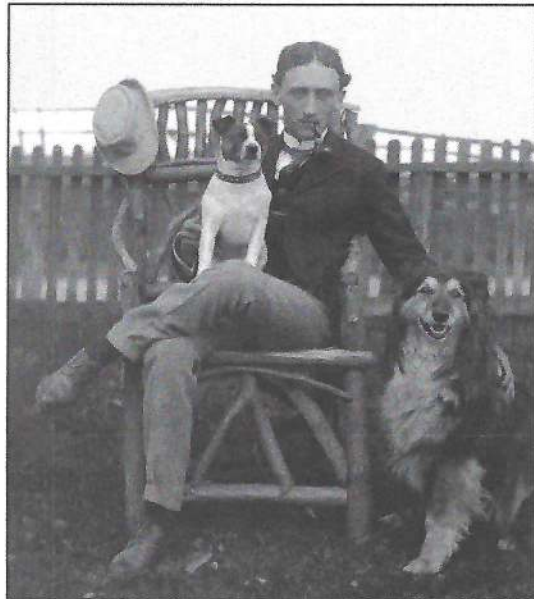
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Clinton Halladay		613-359-5607(res) 613-217-0054(cell)
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Diane Haskins		613-272-2662
Bill Murray		613-359-6319

Keep in touch with EAHS on the following:

- EAHS Web Page: eahs.ca
- Visit us on Facebook : Elgin and Area Heritage Society

Volunteers: EAHS welcomes volunteers. Please consider helping us out by assisting with single events or projects or as an ongoing participant with our many activities. If interested, contact any of those named above.



Meet Clifford Pennock¹

Clifford Pennock was born near Elgin in 1880, and lived in the town for 65 years. During his life he became a barber, and with his wife - Ella Driscoll - ran a barbershop, a beauty parlour, and a utility store out of their home. They had no children, so he also boarded students from around South Crosby who attended the Elgin Continuation School. Cliff was a slim man, of medium height, with a swarthy complexion, a prominent nose, thinning hair, and a cigarette or pipe constantly in hand. He worked long hours in his barber shop which was open from 8 am until 11 pm most days. The shop was usually filled with people wanting 25 cent haircuts, and his patrons often stayed late into the evenings, socializing and playing games of cribbage. Cliff welcomed people from all walks of life. His business became known as a place without prejudice. Cliff was also a talented director of plays at the local Elgin theatre. The performances were usually 3 act farces, and they often toured to Newboro, Toledo, and even Kingston as fundraisers for worthy causes.

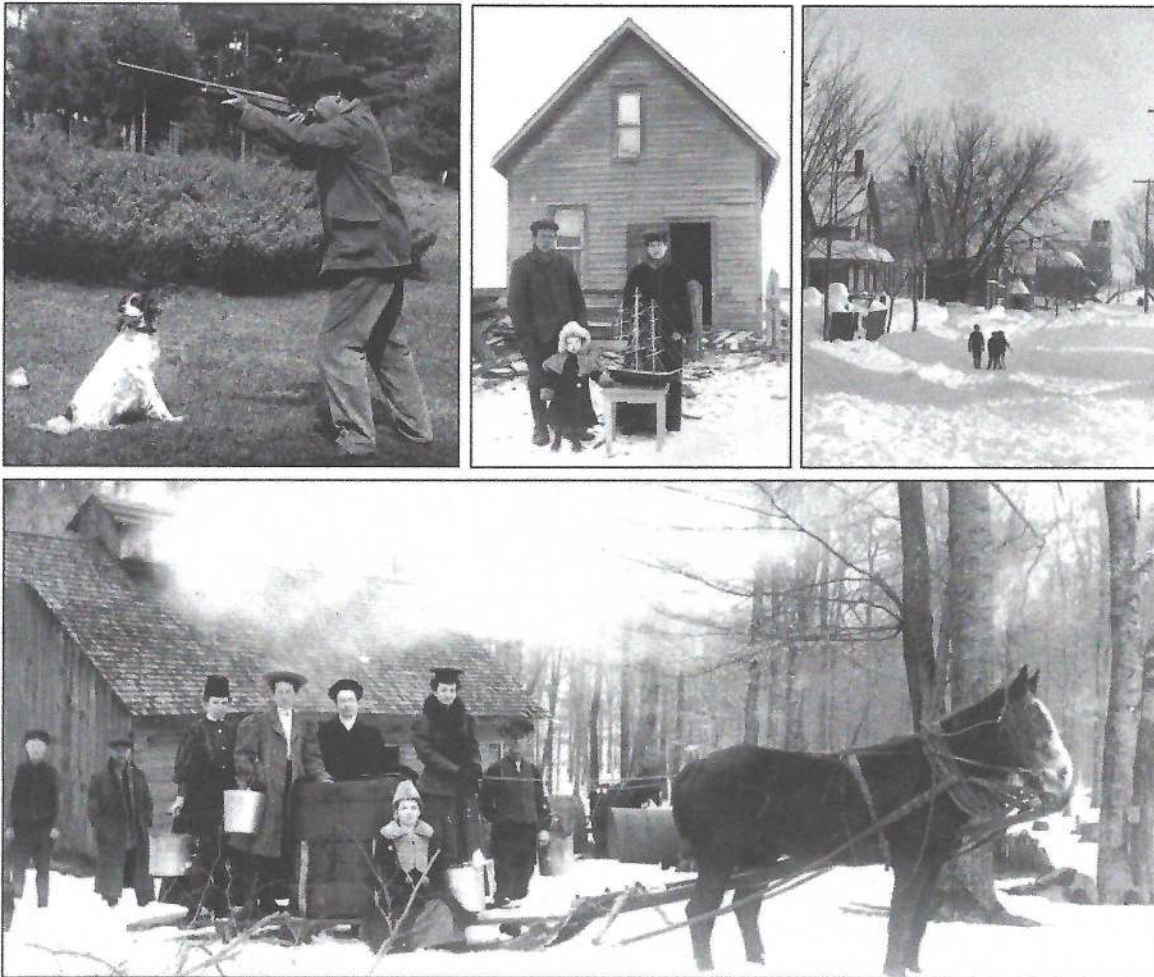
1 - Acknowledgments to articles by Don Warren and Neil Patterson for biographical information on Clifford Pennock

A Passion for Photography

But in spite of all this, Cliff's real passion was photography! By 1904 he had become skilled in the operation of glass plate cameras, had his own dark room, and over the years took over 1300 photos of people and places in South Crosby. Thanks to the efforts of Neil Patterson and others in the community, most of Cliff's photographs have survived and many are stored in archives at Queen's University and Parks Canada.

In 2021 the Elgin and Area Heritage Society (EAHS) sponsored the creation of several historical poster boards in Newboro and Elgin that feature much of Pennock's best photography. I have had the privilege of doing the photo restoration and graphic designs for these projects, and in the process have become familiar with the genius of Pennock's art. Here are some thoughts on his amazing body of work.

Everyday Life



Pennock travelled widely throughout South Crosby in pursuit of his photography. As a result, he recorded a variety of scenes of everyday life in the township.

The top left image captures the intensity of the hunter and his dog in pursuit of their prey.

The top middle image shows a well dressed couple, their daughter, and an exquisitely crafted model sailboat in front of an austere looking building. Is he the craftsman and is this his shop? If this is their home, it seems at odds with their fine attire.

The top right image is a south looking view down Kingston St in Elgin, showing a group of children walking in a fresh snowfall. It's a very ordinary picture, yet Pennock's composition has a way of drawing us into the scene.

The bottom image captures the hard work and anticipation of a family working in their sugar bush, perhaps looking forward to a sweet reward of maple taffy at the end of the day.

Why Elgin Grew in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century

By Neil A. Patterson

(What follows here is a core excerpt from a longer article by Neil Patterson, the full text of which can be accessed by visiting the EAHS web site at eahs.ca)

Between 1871 and 1901, eight cheese factories opened in South Crosby Township and another 5 near the borders of adjacent townships. There were 3 cheese makers working in South Crosby in 1871 and that number grew to 20 cheesemakers in 1901. The price of wheat per bushel in 1880 was 88 cents and by 1900 had dropped to 63 cents per bushel. On the other hand, the wholesale price of cheese in the same period went from 10 cents per pound to 12 cents per pound. Farm revenue in 1880 was greater if the farmer changed to dairy farming and the number of dairy farms began to grow. The development of cheese making and decline of grain harvesting changed farm production requirements drastically. As farming changed and grew in a new direction, Elgin entrepreneurs strove to meet the market demands.

In 1916, Charlie Kerr became the Elgin Postmaster. Twenty-five years earlier, he had purchased the tinsmith shop where he produced stainless steel milk pails and 40-gallon barrels used by farmers to haul their milk to the cheese factory. To meet the demand of his customers, he employed 4 men. John Dargavel built the largest general merchandise retail store in North Leeds where he also employed 4 men. There were 3 more general merchandise shops in Elgin employing another 6 men. Phillip Halladay opened a large 2 story farm equipment outlet selling the latest machinery such as Massey-Harris binders, reapers, steam powered thrashers and mowing machines; his staff included 3 sales men. The village had 2 blacksmith shops with steady work for 5 men. Jack Fahey modernized the Empire Hotel with a large showroom for visiting agents to display their wares. He put in running water and flush toilets using rainwater he caught and stored in a large tank in the hotel attic. George Howard opened a livery stable to make it possible for sales agents to visit the area farms. The Stanton Sash, Door and Window Factory opened to provide custom made products for all the new farm and village buildings. In 1905, Francis Levine bought the Elgin Cheese Factory. Previously it had been the Model Cheese Factory owned as a co-op with John Dargavel as the Chairman and Richard Murphy as the Secretary Treasurer. It was one of 9 Cheese Factories operating in South Crosby Township employing 20 men. Malcom Kirst was making carriages and Samuel Kelsey and his son Henry were making farm wagons. Elgin had a butcher shop and a commercial bakery supplying the new affluent area. In the 1901 census there were 12 people listed as tailors, milliners, hatters, shoemakers, dress makers and seamstresses. The village had 2 doctors, Darius Coon and George McGhie as well as a dentist. The village had a law office and an insurance agency and an up to date two room brick elementary school built in 1887. George Patterson had a boat building shop to provide guide boats to the expanding fishing industry. The Brockville Mining Company's manager, John Sullivan, had an office in Elgin and operated the Sand Lake Mica Mine which employed as many as 30 men. The mine, boarding house and other buildings were on the Davis Lock Road.

(continued of page 7)



Clear Lake Cheese Factory – cheesemakers Thomas Wright and Cook Rowsell standing on the weight in platform



Scene outside the very busy Philip Halladay Implement Store

The Laishley Mica Mine, out of Chaffeys Lock, brought their mica to Elgin to the cobbing shop located just below the Empire Hotel. The Merchants Bank opened on Main Street in 1903 with Norman Sparrow as the manager. Hugh Soper opened a large steam powered sawmill beside the Cheese Factory. The village had 3 newly constructed stone churches, the Roman Catholic, the Anglican and the Methodist. All this activity was an indication of how prosperous the end of the 19th Century was for Elgin.

In the 1901 Census, there were 114 persons working at various occupations and the village population was 462. The reason for the village of Elgin's success was the entrepreneurial developments by the many persons as shown above. It was very prosperous because the businesses primarily provided the Dairy Industry around it with the products that made them grow to become a Cheddar Cheese exporter to Great Britain and beyond. Elgin's growth between 1870 and 1920 was due primarily to entrepreneurship by the men and women with a vision of the village's future.

The Beverley Trio to Perform at Music in the Park

On **Sunday, August 28th, 2022**, the Elgin and Area Heritage Society is delighted to be able to bring the **Beverley Trio** to an open air concert in **Elgin's Heritage Park**. This group, already known in the Delta/Lyndhurst area for their "Bach on the Beverley" concerts, is a highly talented trio of professional musicians and music educators. Tom Heinze, oboist, Gayle Morgan Klaber, cellist, and Harold Levin on viola have enjoyed overlapping careers in Scranton, Pennsylvania as members of the [Bach Festival Orchestra](#) and as colleagues at [Marywood University](#).



Gayle Morgan Klaber
Cello



Harold Levin, Viola



Tom Heinze
Oboe/Oboe d'amore

Each summer, the threesome, whose friendships have deepened over their many years working together, treat themselves to a working holiday on Lower Beverley Lake. To emphasize the site's significance to them, Heinze, their spokesperson, remarks, "that our choice of name is a testimony to our love of Lower Beverley Lake."

Those who have had the opportunity to attend one of the Beverley Trio's concerts speak of their unique, warm and informative style of program delivery. Of that process, Heinze comments that, "we engage with the audience on an informal basis and provide suggestions for directed listening that, we hope, will give the listeners a more complete experience than the more "stuffed shirt" concerts we perform during the chamber music series we find ourselves presenting during the fall and winter. We hope that our listeners will be able to relate to the musical masters as "down to earth" people who happen to have had great gifts as musicians." The coming concert will include works by, not only J.S. Bach, but by Haydn, Beethoven and other classical masters.

The Elgin and Area Heritage Society invites all to **Heritage Park, Elgin on Sunday, August 28, 2022**. Admission is free. Bring your own chair and sit back, relax and enjoy this musical gem. The performance begins at **2:00 p.m. No rain date is planned.**

Members and Donors 2019 -2022

As in past years, the Elgin and Area Heritage Society has been most fortunate to have a generous community, both individuals and groups, who have given us a great deal of financial support. The years 2019 and 2022 are no exception. Below is a list of those who have made contributions in the form of a membership purchase, personal or memorial donations, as well as, community and group gifts and grants. We remain very grateful for this support.

Alderdice, Mary Lynne	Dwyre, Joe	Legere, Clare	O'Meara, Margaret
Alford, Sue	Dwyre, Ted and Marsha	Legere, Tom, Beth , Heather	Patterson, Neil
Baker, Olga	Emmons, Ab	Leggett, Carl	Penny, Cathy & Malcolm
Bennett, Donna	Fahey, Joseph and Eleanor	Leggett, Kathy	Price, Alex and Ella
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Carbino, Mary	Haskins, Cory and Melanie	Miltenburg, Ceceila	Tremain, Loretta
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Donovan, Joe and Janet	Lake, Rosanne and Tyler		Wright, Joan
Dwyre, Joey	Legere, B./C. Leininger		

Public and Community Donors: Elgin Lions Club, Estate of Douglas Halladay, Martins Bus Services LTD, Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Rideau Lakes Township – Municipal Heritage Advisory Council Grant

EAHS Membership/Donation Form 2022

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Membership: (\$10 per year per person) is enclosed: \$ _____

Donation: I would like to make a donation to the EAHS for 2022 in the amount of \$ _____
(A tax receipt will be issued to you for all donations of \$20.00 or more.)

Cheques payable to: Elgin and Area Heritage Society.

Clip this form and send to: Elgin and Area Heritage Society, Box 480, Elgin, ON K0G 1E0