

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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A generous gift has been received from the **Peter S. Long Family Foundation** to be used for general programs. These funds will be helpful in our plans to provide displays for our future Community Outreach programs.

April Public Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by a presentation on the **History of Millgrove** by Ray Cummins.



David and Margaret Cummins

A well known local historian, Ray will tell the story of how his direct descendent of Daniel Cummins UE, who along with his wife and five children emigrated from New Jersey to Flamborough. One of Daniel's children, David, founded the village of Millgrove in 1826. Several mills located along the creek in the area led to the name of the village.

**St. James United Church,
306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown
Fellowship Hall
Friday, April 27, 2018
8 PM**

**Free admission All are welcome!
BRING A FRIEND!!!**

FLAMBOROUGH FUN FACTS

The city that was never built—Romulus—was planned for about two miles east of Sheffield by an Englishman by the name of Lamb in 1816. He bought 2,000 acres of land and built a house that served as a hotel. He returned to England to try and sell the people on coming to Canada. He promised them a lot to build a house, free firewood and tax exemption for 25 years. He also promised to build an English

Cathedral, Catholic Church, market square, cricket grounds, race track, theatre, concert hall and ballroom. Of those promises, only a sawmill and mill race were built. A bakery was built across from the house. Most of the pioneers are buried on a mound on the north side of Highway #8 in a field supposed to be the centre of Lamb's holdings.

For Queen and Empire: Flamborough Men in the Second Anglo- Boer War 1899-1902

Heritage Paper # 273

Towards the end of the Victorian Era, the British Empire was once again at war with the "Boers" in South Africa, also known as Afrikaners. The tensions between the British and the Boers stemmed from the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1814 that ceded the Dutch Cape Colony to the British, where a multiethnic community mainly of Dutch descent had settled since the seventeenth century. From 1834-1845, approximately 14,000 Boers travelled northeast out of Cape Colony to establish the South African Republic (Transvaal) and the Orange Free State to escape firm British control of their semi-nomadic and chattel slavery societies, an event known as the "Great Trek." The tensions increased when the British sought to exploit the Witwatersrand basin in the Transvaal, which was rich in precious metals. This led to the First-Anglo Boer War (1880-1881) with the Boers defeating the British. The Second-Anglo Boer War began in October 1899 as a result of the same tensions, though this time the Empire called upon her colonial possessions for aid.

Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier initially committed 1000 volunteers to the Boer War, which grew substantially to over 7000 by war's end. As a recently established dominion of the Empire, Canada's relationship with Britain assumed loyal obligation to aid the efforts of Her Majesty's forces. However, a debate of whether to send troops to fight a war of imperialism fiercely divided Canadians as well as the Laurier's Cabinet. While hesitant to commit Canadians to the conflict, Laurier conceded to the pressure leading to the creation of the 2nd Special Service Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry which left Canada for Cape Colony on 30 October 1899.

Other battalions were subsequently formed: The Canadian Mounted Rifles, The Royal Canadian

Dragoons, Strathcona's Horses, the Royal Canadian Field Artillery, the 10th Canadian Field Hospital, and the Canadian Scouts. Canadians were also in the South African Constabulary, which policed newly acquired territory behind British lines. Canadians were involved in important battles at Paardeberg (Feb. 1900), Leliefontein (Nov. 1900), and Boschbult/Harts River (Mar. 1902). Though a small contribution when compared to the other 193,000 British forces, the Canadians distinguished themselves, not only by their unique brown canvas khaki uniforms and white helmets but also by their bravery in unfamiliar climate and terrain.



John Rasberry

Many men from Flamborough enlisted to fight in the South African War. In the Canadian Mounted Rifles was Harry Wilson Dymont from Orkney, Adam Hunter from Rockton, John Wilkinson from Clyde, William Grey from Flamboro Centre, Charles Neff from Troy, and John Minchin from Troy. In the Royal Canadian Artillery were George Van Norman from Millgrove and William Hopkinson from Carlisle. In the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry were John Rasberry from Millgrove and Arthur Robson from Hamilton (who settled in Millgrove after the war).

Van Norman was involved in the Relief of Mafeking operation in May 1900, which relieved the British forces that had been besieged since the early days of the war. He was later discharged after contracting dysentery. Wilkinson and



George Van Norman

Minchin, who enlisted together in Guelph, were both seriously wounded at Boschbult on 31 March 1902, which was one of the bloodiest battles for Canadians in the war.



John Wilkinson

Grey, who joined the North West Mounted Police shortly before the war, fought in the Battle of Diamond Hill in June 1900.

Rasberry died from enteric fever in a field hospital at Bloemfontein on 24 May 1900 and was awarded his service war medal and clasps for Paardeberg, Driefontein, and

Cape Colony posthumously. Dymont lied about his age, claiming he was 22 when he was actually 17 in order to enlist. He also contracted enteric fever and was subsequently discharged.

Approximately 270 Canadians died in the Second Anglo-Boer War, with more than half from illnesses contracted there. The war was a British victory and formally came to an end with the Treaty of Vereeniging on 31 May 1902, which saw the Boer republics absorbed into the Empire.



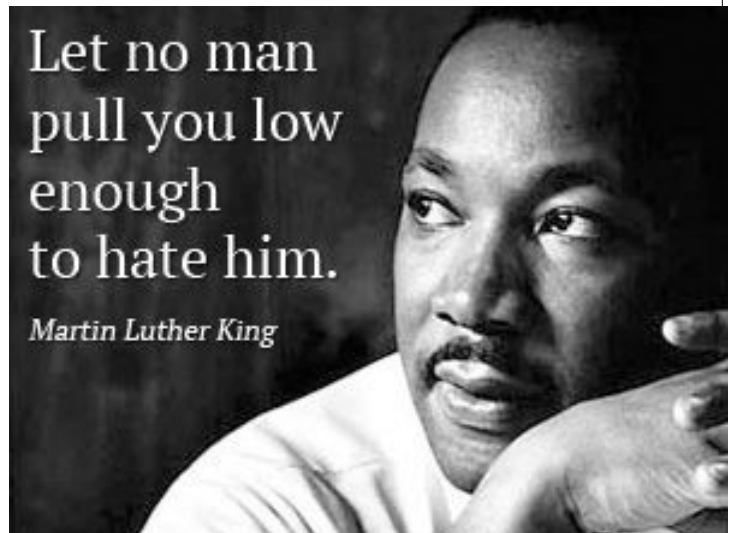
By William D. Kearney
Student Archivist

Martin Luther King Jr. Assassination 50th Anniversary Commemoration

An outdoor service was held on April 4 in Memphis commemorating the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. The ceremony at the National Civil Rights Museum's plaza in front of the preserved Lorraine Motel included a wreath-laying at the spot where Reverend King fell mortally wounded, as well as remarks by religious and civil rights leaders, including Andrew Young and Jesse Jackson, both of whom were with Martin Luther King Jr. at the motel at the time of the shooting. The commemoration ended with the tolling of a bell at 6:01 pm local time, exactly 50 years after the assassination.

Let no man
pull you low
enough
to hate him.

Martin Luther King



THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted, with files by Sylvia Wray

A brief history of the Eager family of Lowville, Burlington Square and Waterdown

Flamborough Archives has a small collection of personal papers of the Eager family. The majority of these are letters sent by Captain Joseph Eager to his father James E. Eager and his sister Agnes, during his time as a Medical Officer in England and France, from 1913-1919.

The Eager family of Lowville, Burlington Square and Waterdown, Ontario were descendants of English landed gentry who through their strong support of the Jacobite cause were forced to move to Ireland, with other like-minded exiles, the Spences, Tassies and Mullocks in the mid-18th century, as the British throne passed to a German Protestant prince, George of Hanover who became King George I of England in 1714.

Benjamin Eager (1770-1849) of Blessington, County Wicklow, Ireland and his second wife Rebecca Culloden came to Upper Canada in 1837, settling in the Lowville area of Nelson Township, Halton County. Accompanying Benjamin Eager and his wife were daughters, Anne Elizabeth and Martha from his first marriage and four children from his second marriage, Joseph Culloden Eager (1809-1893), Margaret, Rebecca and William.

Joseph Culloden Eager, Benjamin Eager's eldest son was a Lowville merchant in the 1850s, before he and his wife, Mary Tassie and family moved to Waterdown during the rapid development of the village as a prosperous industrial community during the 1860s.



He purchased the large stone General Store on the south-east corner of Dundas and Mill Street North that had been built by Ebenezer Culver Griffin in the 1820s. With the purchase of the store, the family became the proprietors of a

Waterdown landmark, the Eager General Store which remained in their ownership until the death of Benjamin's grandson and Joseph's son, James Edward Eager (1842-1921) when it was sold to the Weeks family in 1924.



He later built an elegant two-storey house on Dundas Street, above the bridge over the Grindstone Creek c.1866

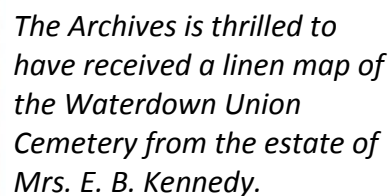
Edward Eager, second of Joseph Culloden Eager's three sons lived in the house following his father's death, with his first wife, Elizabeth Mullock and after her death, with his second wife, Agnes Eliza Maud Higginson (1865-1938) and their children: Dr. Joseph Culloden Eager (1884-1948), twins, Mary Tassie Eager (1887-1969) and Agnes Ramage Eager (1887-1972), Helen Feilde Eager (1904-1989), Alfred W. H. Eager (1905-1969) and Dr. James Edward 'Ted' B. Eager (1907-1956).

Two of James Edward Eager's sons, the oldest and youngest graduated as medical doctors. Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Joseph Culloden Eager, known as 'Joe', practiced first in Port Colborne, Ontario and then Empress, Alberta, before enlisting with the 78th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force and serving overseas in hospitals in England and France during World War I for which he was awarded the Military Cross. At the end of the war he returned to Canada, settling in Hamilton and specializing in obstetrics. From 1932 to 1936 he was the Commanding Officer of No. 19 Field Ambulance Unit. He was the only one of James Edward Eager's children to marry and is buried with his wife, Louise Barbara Brown in Grace Anglican Church Cemetery, Waterdown.

Dr. James Edward Benjamin Eager, known as 'Ted' worked at the General Hospital on Barton Street in Hamilton and rose to the position of Assistant Medical Superintendent in 1947.

TREASURES
FROM
THE
ARCHIVES

Collected by H. B. Smith March 21, 1906



*"Originally drawn by
E. Griffin*

It has been sent for restoration and preservation. It will be returned shortly and then made available for study.

**Waterdown-East Flamborough
Heritage Society**

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Kim Hirst, Newsletter



NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

April brings an end to another season of excellent speakers. I want to thank everyone that has helped the Society with the meetings: Keri Raphael, Lyn Lunsted, Sue Bowman, Mike Lawlor, Carol and Len Snell.

Even with the blanket of snow and sleet out my window, we are looking forward to attending more community events this summer and starting on some great new projects. If you have any suggestions on how we can better serve you and the community, please let us know. We are always striving to reach as many people as possible.

Chris Rivait
President



AREA SOCIETY WEBSITES

The **Ancaster Township Historical Society** -

www.ancasterhistory.ca

The **Burlington Historical Society** -

www.burlingtonhistorical.ca

The **Dundas Valley Historical Society** -

www.dundashistory.ca

The **Grimsby Historical Society** -

[Grimsby Historical Society](http://GrimsbyHistoricalSociety)

The **Hamilton Historical Board** -

www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca

The **Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society** -

[Head of the Lake Historical Society](http://HeadoftheLakeHistoricalSociety)

The **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Hamilton Branch** - www.uel.com

The **West Lincoln Historical Society** - www.wlhs.info