

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Our Heritage Society</i>	1
<i>Heritage Paper— Hope and Faith</i>	2
<i>Volunteer Spotlight</i>	6
<i>Found in the Fonds</i>	7
<i>Treasures</i>	9
<i>Threads Through the Past</i>	10
<i>Message from the President</i>	12
<i>Local Society Websites</i>	12
<i>Contact Information</i>	12

WEFHS Board 2021-2022

Positions are open on our
Board of Directors.

Please contact us if you are
interested—or know of
someone who is.

Phone
905-540-5161

Email
society@
FlamboroughHistory.com

April Zoom Meeting

Hamilton: A People's History

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by a presentation on Hamilton: A People's History by Bill Freeman.

Bill is an award-winning historian, author, and screenwriter. He first began writing a series of books for youth while living in Hamilton. Each book focused on a different industrial setting in the 1870's. He then went on to writing books for adults, working in the film industry, and writing 2 plays.



Bill will share with us the story of the city beginning with the earliest habitation, through the War of 1812, and at its peak as a major manufacturing centre. We will also hear about how the railway and Hamilton's geography shaped the cities development and the many people who contributed to the city's history.

ZOOM MEETING
Wednesday April 27, 2022
8:00 p.m.

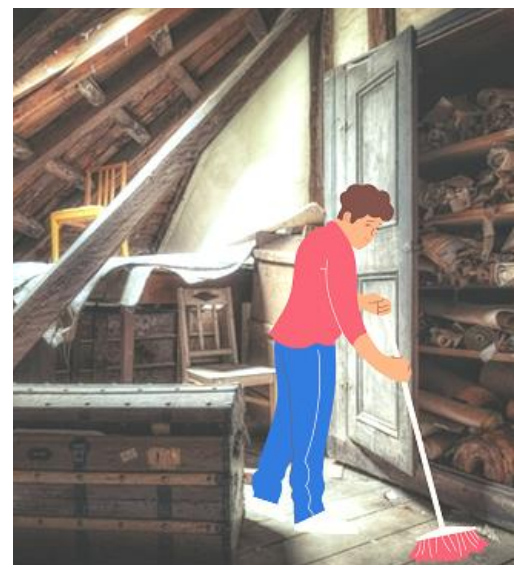
The Zoom link to pre-register will be sent out closer to the date. Feel free to forward it on to friends. The meeting begins at 8:00 PM but the waiting room is open from 7:45 PM.

SPRING IS HERE!

While the temperatures and weather are still getting settled, it's safe to say that Spring has finally arrived.

Should you be clearing out your storage for more room and happen across some items of interest, be sure to let us know. Spring cleaning is often a time that documents, pictures, and other items we'd love to see and preserve get discarded.

No matter what era or item it is, we'd love to hear from you. There's lots of ways to donate or share!



The Canadian Homefront: Waterdown

Part 6 — Hope and Faith: Religion in Flamborough During the Second World War

Heritage Paper # 303

Throughout history, religion has often taken centre stage as a source of unity, amongst other things, and this is prevalent in Second World War Flamborough. In those trying times, a successful war effort depended on the harmony found within the Homefront since a fractured community can easily crumble with the increasing stress of war. There were plenty of people or concepts that kept society glued together, even if haphazardly, but one of the most successful was religion. This paper, as a result of sources, will follow the Christian experience within Waterdown. Ultimately, the church's role in a local community served a greater purpose; as a result of the focus on maintaining Christian values, its money-raising and participation within government acts and organizations, its educational sermons and



Carlisle United Church

lectures, and its acts of national unity, the multiple Christian churches of Flamborough were another element that kept the community and, on a grander scale, the nation working.

As one might have heard from history lessons and shows, the war was started for several reasons, but others placed blame on something else: losing sight of Jesus Christ and



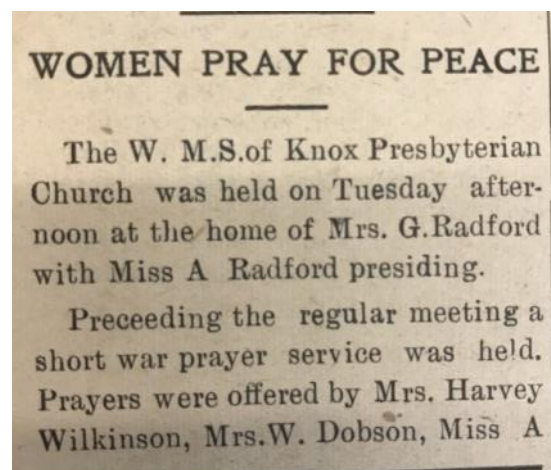
His teachings. During a community-wide divine worship in July 1944, Donald Clarke addressed the crowds stating that there “was an honest doubt whether those at home were living so that there would be betterment of world conditions.” To succeed in bringing about change, one would need to dedicate themselves to being of service to God and practice Christian

living. One of the easiest ways of being an excellent Christian outside of aiding any war-centred organizations or participating in events raising funds for the front was through prayer and Christian living. Praying for victory was encouraged, but above all else, peace, which is a central aspect of Christianity, was supposed to be the focus of everyone's thoughts. Christian living also extended to morals; in the August 22nd, 1940 editorial, society was too self-centred to notice Germany rearming and the rage Germany felt from their situation led to the divide that Adolph Hitler and his Nazis could exploit. Until society was willing to adopt a more thoughtful and selfless perspective, the war would continue. While a hopeful sentiment, this reflected the perspective many had from 1939 to 1945 and led to many endeavouring to do their part in charity and to participate more within their community.

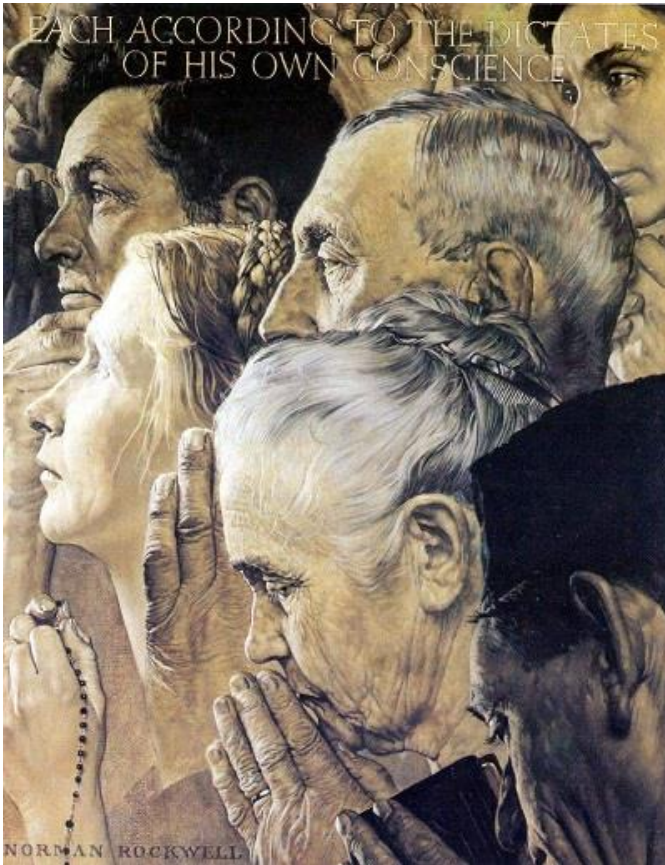
One of the most important jobs the various churches had was community events that raised funds for Canada's war effort and maintained unity. Churches were key parts of the local area and had a unique and engaging role with the public as a part of many people's social life. With the war raging on, churches had their war savings certificate committees and frequently contributed to Victory Bonds and more through drives or generous donations. Clergymen did their part by also helping to organize groups to aid the local farmers.

Churches were useful hubs in organization and encouraging further participation by the public through the community. Churches and various clubs underneath them created events that would appeal to the public while also raising funds for the war effort. On September 12, 1942, a

party with a music program was held in Carlisle to obtain proceeds to send gifts overseas for local soldiers. The event was under the auspices of the United Church and Reverend N Truax was chairman. Churches were vital in keeping up the morale of both the public and the men fighting for their country. Religion also played a key role in other events, including Remembrance Day services. On November 11, 1940, a community-wide Remembrance Day ceremony was held in Memorial Hall with the participation of local Reverends including EE Lake and AL Sanderson. Hymns and prayers were a vital part of the service, especially as a sign of respect for the fallen soldiers and to God. The churches participation in events such as these demonstrate its role and participation within the population's lives and how this affected a community in turmoil. Religious groups within a church assisted local organizations like the Red Cross through raising funds or textile and food production. Prayer was a major part of organizations, especially in their meetings, such as the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) of the Presbyterial Knox Church.



Continued next page



Norman Rockwell's *Freedom of Worship*, one of a four part series of oil paintings derived from Franklin Roosevelt's State of the Union Address.

An opening prayer war service occurred in their early September 1940 meeting at Mrs. J Duncan's home with participation from Mrs. J Green, Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Griffin, and Mrs. Radford. Mrs. Drummond's son, Corporal Hugh Drummond, later died in 1944. The church was a major part of everyday life and was useful in maintaining public spirits through events; however, faith also played a role in developing hope, especially for one's children, and extending the reach of the overall community across the Atlantic.

Churches were a major part of one's social life, but they also were useful in obtaining information about what was happening in the world. To this day, Christians apply the Bible's

moral lessons and philosophies to real-world events to better understand the depth and impact they have on the world. Revered AL Sanderson of the United Church in late July 1940 applied "the Biblical interpretation of world events as contained in Revelation" or the Christian apocalypse. This, according to the article, was like many people's beliefs at the time. While this may have led to an abundance of chaos and catastrophe, churches also preached that being a good Christian and maintaining one's morals would help to keep the Homefront stable and keep the darkness at bay. Clergymen were able to create a clear image of current events through the use of the Bible but also were able to cast aside doubts or panic through preaching peace and morality. Other informational aspects of the church included debates and meetings. At the Waterdown Masonic Lodge in September 1943, Reverend Banks Nelson of Hamilton discussed the need for a union of European states to ensure security and the current conditions of Russia, including their religion of caring for the individual and social issues.



Waterdown's Grace Anglican Church

Talks and debates were vital in spreading information, especially considering the openness

to the public. The church was able to contribute to the war effort through education in an accessible and easily understandable way, leading to a more united front.

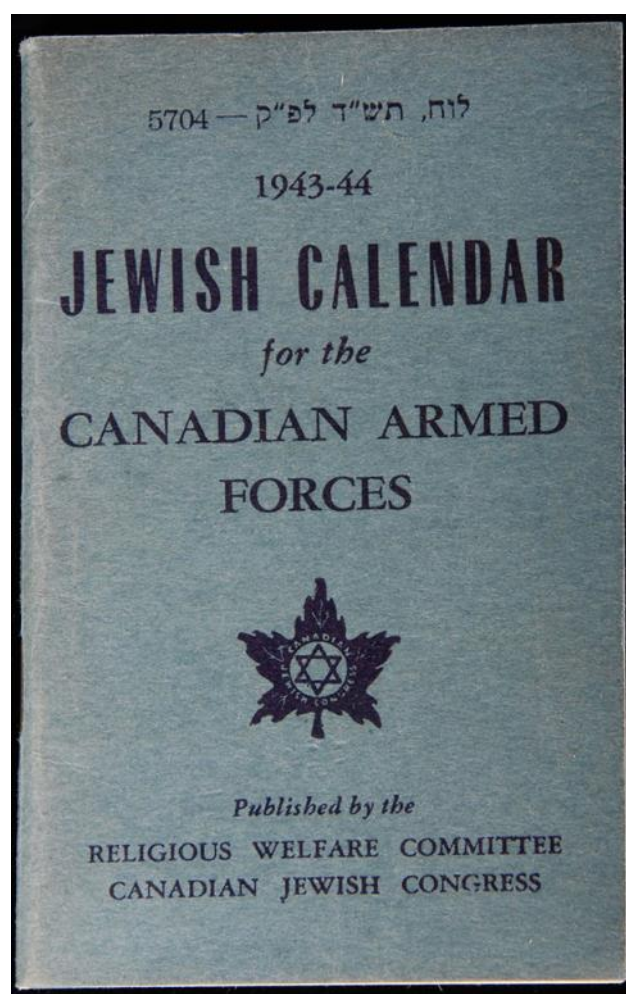
Churches were able to influence the population through education and its place within the public's social life; however, government and royal declared days of prayer were another method of uniting the community. While anyone who had a friend or family member in the war would use religion to pray for their safety and do their part in protecting them, Days of Prayer were normally issued by both the British and Canadian governments as well as British royalty. They were often the day of a major event, such as the May 26th, 1940 evacuation of Dunkirk, and either an article or the editorial in *The Waterdown Review* called the population to their respective churches to pray for guidance and peace. Days of Prayer were vital in creating links in Flamborough that extended overseas; anyone could do their part for the war effort through praying for victory and peace. People who feel hopeless and lost, especially if a loved one is in constant danger, turn to religion to find direction and to ensure God is with a specific person or group of people. This provided many people with the opportunity for self-reflection and to ensure they are serving their country from the Homefront. Days of Prayer were vital parts of the war effort to ensure unity and to instill hope within Canadians everywhere.

Christianity and other religions were vital to the Homefront's stability through the encouragement of morality, participation within the public sphere through events and education, and Days of Prayer. Flamborough has a long history of religion and, as a result, it has

ingrained itself into the lives of many and has a firm place within the community even for those who are not religious. The Homefront's success was a result of many aspects, but the links that connected the mainland overseas were a major part of unifying the nation and religion had a major role in their construction.

Tess Moffat

Archives Summer Student, 2021



While not mentioned in our paper, there were Canadian Jews who served during WWII. Being Jewish in a Canadian society—and military—that was predominately Christian brought with it a number of challenges. The Canada of the late 1930s and 1940s discriminated against those of the Jewish faith, and although the Canadian Army presented the fewest official barriers to Jewish men and women who volunteered to serve their country, they still encountered anti-Semitic attitudes from some of their fellow service members.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

As one of the most active Heritage Societies in Ontario, all of our work is accomplished through our volunteers and their dedication of time toward preserving history. You may wonder what exactly volunteers are doing – we're glad you asked!

CURRENT PROJECTS

We may not have a new display this month, although the next one is in the planning stages. Our volunteers are still working behind the scenes to make sure Flamborough's history is preserved and shared.

As the weather gets warmer, members and followers are exploring their neighbourhoods and our Tours page for information. We've had some requests that the tours be printable, and we're working on updating brochures and the website to fit the needs of that request.



With warmer weather, we hope to engage the community with tours and walks hosted by the Society. Kim Hirst and Meghan Martin are planning a ghost walk as our last spooky tour was extremely popular. This tour will not only tell tales of past lives, but highlight buildings and history within Waterdown.

Volunteers and our co-op student, Max, continue their work in the Archives. We've also gained some new volunteers, and welcome MaryAnn Slagter. From cataloguing items, updating the business listing, mounting negatives, creating displays and more, there's always something to be done.

Want to help out? Let us know! We do have tasks that can be completed from the comfort of your home. Consider volunteering with the Society—not only do you help us fulfill our mandate, it can be a lot of fun! No matter how much or how little time you can commit, we'd love to hear from you.

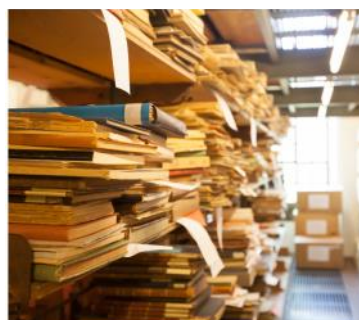
ARCHIVES

What's happening in the Archives?

The Flamborough Archives is a hub of activity, and our archivist Lyn Lunsted helps to organize – from helping visitors spending time researching, directing volunteers helping out, to facilitating fulfillment of shop orders. Lyn also answers email requests for research, and supplies images and information for community projects all over Flamborough.

Cataloguing items is now a lot easier with our new online system, and when there's a spare minute Lyn is able to get a bit of cataloguing done. She loves the new system!

Lyn has also been preparing the 2021-2022 Annual Report. Look out for the report coming soon, which will highlight all of our activity for the past year and plans for the future.



MEMBERSHIP



If you're reading Heritage Happenings, you're probably already a member. Your membership helps support us by funding our operating costs, and members receive this newsletter as well as priority at our monthly meetings, currently held by Zoom.

We encourage members to recruit more people to the Society — friends, family, colleagues.

Membership runs from September to August annually. Is your membership up to date? More info on our website.

DONATE

It takes a lot to preserve history. While memberships, book sales, and grants help us with our day-to-day expenditures, we have projects and unexpected expenses that would be greatly supported by monetary donations. Whatever amount you are able to give, we appreciate and make sure that it is put towards our mission.

We appreciate all those who have donated materials to the Archives, including photographs, artifacts, books, family histories, and so much more.

We're currently raising funds for a catalogue database

update, the Review microfilm project, and our shelf system update. More about these projects can be found on our website.



Please help us preserve our local history by donating today. Tax receipts are issued for donations \$25 and up. Thank you so much for your support.

FOUND IN THE FONDS

There's all sorts of history to be discovered on the shelves of the archives, not just limited to one specific era.

Tucked away in a scrapbook of clippings and ephemera from the Rotary Club of Waterdown is the winning ticket to their 1977 Car Draw & Ham Roll. The winner had a choice of a new 1977 Sierra Classic GMC 1/2 ton truck in a fetching orange color with all the latest features along with a 14' aluminum boat, or \$5,000 cash.

The event was held in the brand new Waterdown Legion Hall. Branch 551 started off in a barbershop, and by 1953 was housed in a Quonset hut on the southeast corner of Hamilton and Cedar streets.

While it's unknown what this winner chose—truck or cash—the 1975 winner opted for cash.



OUR PRESENCE ONLINE

We continue to grow our following on our Instagram account — we're now up to 467 followers. What was recently popular? This image, photographed by Lindsey Ryder, shows a beer vat journeying through town on its way to Toronto. The image reached 241 people and gained 34 reactions.



The end of March and beginnings of April were very popular for our Facebook page, with six posts reaching well over ten thousand people each.

Our most popular Facebook post over the past month highlighted Flamboro Station. Photographed by John Vincent, the image highlighted a 1965 Upper Canada Railway excursion. The post reached almost 17,000 people, and gained just under 400 reactions. Through sharing to different community groups, we also discovered the family that used to live in the station.

We continue to upload our monthly meetings to our YouTube channel. We loved our March guest speaker, Chris Maillon-Moore, who spoke on Elizabeth Simcoe. Her presentation will be available for a limited time on our channel. We hope to gain 100 subscribers to customize our YouTube channel name—only 84 more to go! Have you subscribed yet?

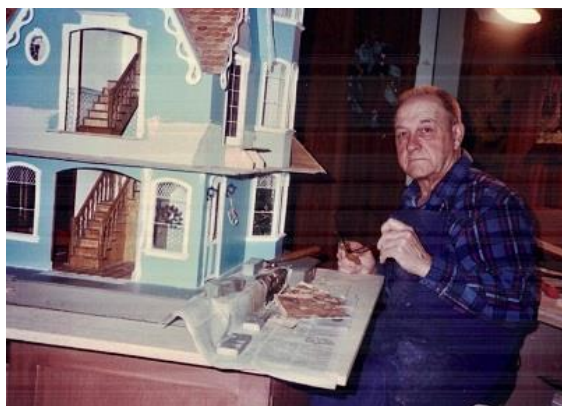


Our website continues its role as our “home base” for history.

“The King Family of Aldershot” has been in the spotlight for the beginning of April, getting 365 views.

We encourage all of our members to follow, subscribe, share and overall enjoy our online activities. Many of these posts require countless volunteer hours to research and create. See you all online!

TREASURES – GUENTHER’S DOLLHOUSE



Fred Guenther at work with the dollhouse

In the Waterdown library’s program room, a dollhouse and all its accoutrements is currently being featured. The dollhouse was donated to the Flamborough Museum in 2021, and this display was set up with the help of Society volunteers. An information board was put together by our archivist Lyn with help from Meghan, as there is much interest and many questions about the dollhouse.

The dollhouse was the property of Fred and Lois Guenther who lived on Mill Street in Waterdown. It was originally purchased by his son-in-law in 1987 to build with his daughter but she was only 5 at the time, and the project languished. In 1995 it was given to Fred and Lois and they worked on it as a winter project for several years.

Fred was a talented woodworker and made several changes to the design of the house. The dollhouse was originally a Greenleaf Dollhouse kit, the ‘Garfield’, but Fred felt that the proportions were off and set to improve upon the original. Fred re-worked the structure and built an entirely new porch—roof, base, posts and spindles. Each floorboard on the porch was made by hand. An octagonal cupola was constructed with a hand-made hammered copper roof. The working weathervane was hand cut.



The original kit—The Garfield



The dollhouse was placed on a movable base with space left for a basement. It was never constructed, although stone walls were built to match the walkway and chimney, which Fred had made by hand. Fred and Lois were enthusiastic about their hobby and were members of miniature clubs, seeking out items and sourcing building materials. Fred died in 2005, and Lois in 2021.

We hope you can visit the Waterdown library and enjoy the dollhouse, which is also a part of the library’s own ‘I Spy’ program. Lots of little items and details to be seen by children and adults alike!

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

The Eager Family

Long time Waterdown residents will recognize the Eager name as being one of the earliest settlers in the village. The Eager store is very prominent in early photos, and the Eager house by the Dundas Street bridge was very recognizable although it is now almost hidden behind trees.

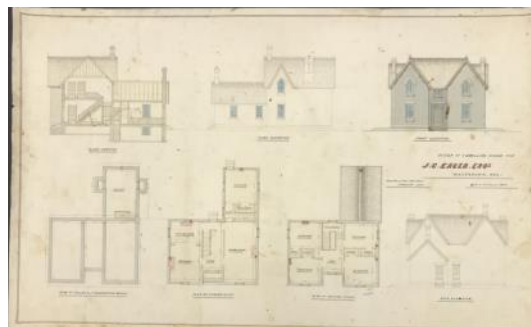
The Eager family of Lowville, Burlington Square and Waterdown, Ontario, were descendants of English landed gentry who through their strong support of the Jacobite cause were forced to move to Ireland, with other like-minded exiles, the Spences, Tassies and Mullocks in the mid-18th century, as the British throne passed to a German Protestant prince in 1714, George of Hanover—King George 1.

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 and Rebecca were his 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, the 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 that had been built by Ebenezer Griffin in the 1820s and he later built an elegant two-storey house on Dundas Street c. 1866. With the purchase of the store, the family became the proprietors of a Waterdown landmark. The Eager General Store remained in the family until the death of Benjamin's grandson and Joseph's son, James Edward Eager (1842-1921). It was sold to the Weeks family in 1924.



The Eager House was designed by architect William Leith of Hamilton and drawings are in the Flamborough Archives collection. The front porch is not original and was added later by local builder by John Reid.



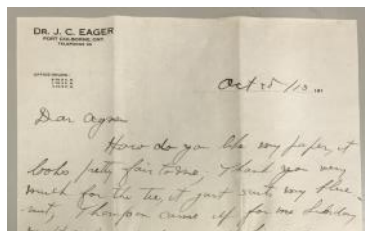
The eldest son, Benjamin (1840-1887) was a prominent businessman and owner of a significant lumber business in the Wellington Square area of Burlington. In 1873, he purchased part of the Joseph Brant farm property, including the area of present-day Maple Avenue. Much of that section was Larch-covered and he cut the timber and sold it, thus initiating the lumber industry in Burlington. He drained the swamp and offered residential lots for sale. Sand Road, the original name of Maple Avenue, soon became the most desirable residential area in Burlington and his foresight in developing the property was vindicated even further when the soil turned out to be excellent for growing fruit and vegetables.

He later purchased the Brant house, converted it into a hotel, known as the Brant House Resort and operated it for a number of years. When he sold the property in 1899, it became the Brant Inn.

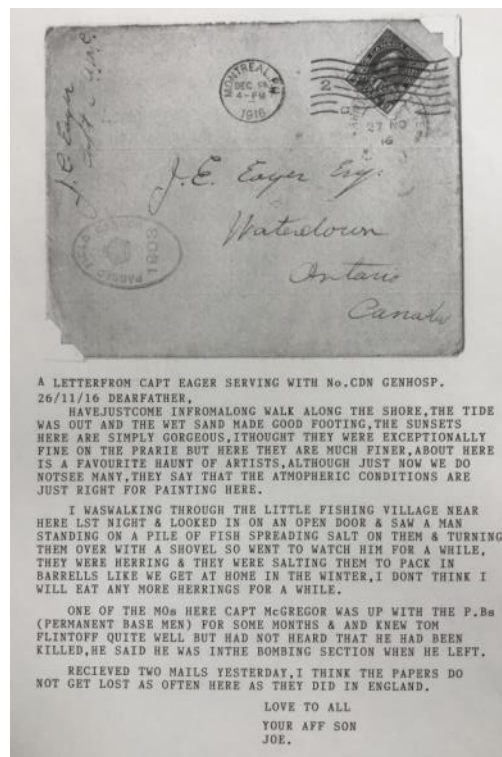
In August 1869, Benjamin Eager married Louisa Justina Jane Feilde (c.1843-1913), daughter of Captain Frederick Feilde, in Grace Anglican Church, Waterdown. Sadly all of the couple's four children, born between 1870 and 1877 died at a very early age. Benjamin moved to the United States and died in Florida in 1887. Louisa died as a patient in the Hamilton Asylum, having been there from 1891 onwards.

James 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 (1856-1938) and their children: Dr. Joseph Culloden Eager (1884-1948), twins Mary and Tassie Eager (1887-1969) and Agnes Ramage Eager (1887-1972, Helen Fielde Eager (1904-1989), Alfred W.H. Eager (1905-1969) and Dr. James Edward 'Ted' Eager (1907-1956).

The eldest and youngest sons were 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. During the war years, Dr. Eager wrote regularly to his father and sisters in Waterdown and this correspondence comprises the largest part of our Eager collection. 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 in Hamilton and rose to the position of Assistant Medical Superintendent in 1947.



The Eager family figured prominently in early Waterdown history but is no longer a name easily recognized by local residents. We hope this brief history will help to keep their story alive.

Sources: Archival documents, finding aids, family history written by Sylvia Wray. All photos are in the Flamborough Archives collection.

**The Flamborough
Heritage Society**

P.O. Box 1044
163 Dundas Street E.
Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0

Phone: 905-540-5161

Society E-Mail:

society@FlamboroughHistory.com

Archives E-mail:

archives@FlamboroughHistory.com

Website: FlamboroughHistory.com



Facebook: @flamboroughhistory

Instagram: @flamborougharchives

Twitter: @FlamboroHistory

YouTube: Flamborough Archives &
Heritage Society

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Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have reached the end of another challenging year. Who knew COVID would impact us to this degree. We've had a full year of Zoom meetings and they have been very successful.

Due to the popularity of our library displays we have created an outreach committee which will focus on finding new ways to showcase our rich history. We are not a museum but we are looking for artifacts that we can borrow to enhance these displays. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting new initiative.

The Board of Directors has been brainstorming ideas on how to celebrate historic anniversaries coming in the next year. Any help you can provide would be appreciated—short term projects!

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in May.

Have a wonderful summer and we hope to see you in person in September.

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.com)

The **Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society**-
www.hamiltonheritage.ca

The **Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society** -
[Head of the Lake Historical Society](http://HeadoftheLakeHistoricalSociety.com)

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

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