



GUELPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.guelphhistoricalsociety.ca

November 2006

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER LECTURE

At the November meeting, Elora lawyer Greg Oakes presented his lecture "Wellington County's Other Two War Poets" in which he discussed poets less known than John McCrae: Kim Beattie and Frank Prewett. It was a fascinating introduction to two local men whose roots in this county may have been forgotten.

KIM BEATTIE

Walter Kimberley Beattie was born into a family of sturdy Scottish pioneers who had cleared land in Puslinch Township. The family were stern Presbyterians with a penchant for education. Shortly before Kim was born, the family moved to Ponsonby. Later the family moved to Guelph and opened a store at the corner of London Road and Woolwich Street.

In 1915, Beattie left Guelph to join the 48th Highlanders. In his Attestation Papers, dated November 18, 1915, Beattie listed his address as 58 Derry St., Guelph and his date of birth as

The Vision

The World knows not the dead went thro'
To rouse and to revive
And steel the steel-stern bond anew
With them that did survive.

In *And You!*, Toronto: Macmillan, 1929

March 2, 1897 but the year is crossed out and 1900 written in. He was only fifteen years old at the time.

As a poet during the war, he was a keen observer of the men and the brutality they endured in the trenches. In 1929, Macmillan published his poetry in a collection entitled, *And You!*

After the war, Beattie became a newspaperman and worked for the *Toronto Telegram*. He also wrote the regimental history of the 48th Highlanders and for the first time interviewed the lower ranks for their stories.

During the Second World War he went overseas as a war correspondent. Eventually he was Press Secretary at Canada House in London. He died in 1963.

Bibliography: Kim Beattie

'And You!' (Toronto: Macmillan 1929).
Dileas: History of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, 1929-1956 (Toronto: 48th Highlanders of Canada, c1957).

FRANK PREWETT

Frank James Prewett was born north of Arthur, in Kenilworth, Ontario in 1893. He attended the University of Toronto. In 1915, Prewett enlisted and served with the field artillery. He was injured at the Front and suffered psychological trauma. While recovering in the hospital, he began writing poetry. He met Seigfreid Sasson who was in the same hospital. Sasson, who became a mentor, introduced Prewett to English poets, writers and philosophers, such as Virginia Wolfe and Bertrand Russell.

The Somme Valley

Comrade, why do you weep?
Is it sorrow for a friend
Who fell, rifle in hand,
His last stand at an end?

The thunder-lipped grey guns
Lament him, fierce and slow,
Where he found his dreamless bed,
Head to head with a foe.

The sweet lark beats on high
For the peace of those who sleep
In the quiet embrace of earth:
Comrade, why do you weep?

Originally published in *Georgian Poetry, 1920-1922*. Available through *The Project Gutenberg EBook of Georgian Poetry 1920-22*, <http://www.gutenberg.org>

Prewett returned to Canada in 1919, however he found it difficult to adjust and missed the London literary scene. When Sasson came to Toronto on a speaking tour, Prewett returned to England with him.

In England, he studied at Christ Church College at Oxford. Later he ran an experimental farm near the town. During the 1930s, Prewett delivered a series of BBC lectures on English county life and edited various farm journals.

Prewett served in various capacities during World War II. He retired from the Air Force in 1954.

His collected works were published posthumously by Robert Graves.

Bibliography: Frank Prewett

Selected poems of Frank Prewett, preface by Barry Callaghan. (Toronto: Exile Editions, 1987).

QUIZ CORNER

Our Membership Secretary, John Parkyn, considers himself to be a trivia nut and has written some questions to test your knowledge of the City's history. We'll provide the answers in the January issue of the newsletter. We hope to make "Quiz Corner" a regular feature.

If you would like to create some questions and send them to John for inclusion in future quizzes, please let him know if you do **not** want acknowledgement. Also, let him know of any suspect questions or incorrect answers. John's email address is: john.parkyn@rogers.com

1. On whose feast day did John Galt found Guelph?
2. Which publishing magnate financed the construction of a mansion he named "Wyoming"?
3. What is the former name of the lower end of Wyndham Street?
4. What is the former name of Gordon Street?
5. In which year did the first GTR train chug into Guelph?
6. Which Prime Minister owned a lot of real estate in the city?
7. Who is the most famous person to live at 37 Liverpool Street?
8. Which GCVI grad asked Ben Johnson to return his Olympic gold medal?
9. Which alcoholic tag has been applied to Macdonnell Street?
10. Which school was once sandwiched between Central Public School and a Salvation Army citadel?

GHS DONORS

The Guelph Historical Society would like to thank our generous donors:

Wilma Cheesman
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ESSAY CONTEST

Topic of your choice pertaining to Guelph's History — Any Era

Essays relating to historical events, residents, architecture, etc. can be based on archival documents, personal experiences, interviews, etc.

CASH PRIZES

**First Prize: \$500 Second Prize: \$350
Third Prize: \$200**

An extra \$50 is awarded to a first-time entrant prize winner.

Essays (approximately 3,000 words) will be judged on their originality, literary style and research. Must include references to source materials and photos. Essays become the property of the Guelph Historical Society and may be published in its annual publication **Historic Guelph: The Royal City**.

The Verne McIlwraith Award Contest is sponsored by the Guelph Historical Society and is open to all residents of Guelph and area.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2007

Mail one hard copy (double-spaced) and a disk or CD to:
Guelph Historical Society "Essay Contest"
100 Crimea St., Unit A-102 Guelph, ON N1H 2Y6

Please note that members of the Guelph Historical Society Board are ineligible to receive cash prizes.

NOTICES

IN MEMORIAM

We regret to learn of the recent deaths of two long-time members of the Guelph Historical Society, Mrs. Pearl Monkhouse and Mr. John Keleher. Pearl was the sister of member Ken Reeve and the aunt of Betty-Anne Stammers. John was an active member of the Society who served on the Board and contributed many articles to *Historic Guelph*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER GHS LECTURE

Canada's Arctic Rangers

Speaker: Whitney Lackenbauer

Date: December 5, 2006

Time & Location: 7:30 p.m. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, (corner of Norfolk & Suffolk Streets) Refreshments to follow.

In "Canada's Arctic Rangers", Whitney Lackenbauer will discuss his extensive research on the Arctic Rangers and their protection of Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic. Dr. Lackenbauer is an Associate Professor of Modern Canadian History at St. Jerome's College, University of Waterloo.

ANNUAL BUS TRIP: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday May 15, 2007.

The Guelph Historical Annual Bus Trip will be held on Tuesday May 15, 2007. This year's trip is to Owen Sound. More details will be available at the December lecture and in the January newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMEMBERING PILKINGTON TOWNSHIP: LIVES, LOVES AND LABOUR Edited by Elysia DeLaurentis and Debra Nash-Chambers



Elysia DeLaurentis (left) and Debra Nash-Chambers (right) launched the book Remembering Pilkington Township on November 19, 2006.

Remembering Pilkington Township: Lives, Loves and Labour was launched with great success by the Wellington County Historical Society on November 19. Elysia DeLaurentis, GHS President, and Debra Nash-Chambers, GHS Vice-President, edited the coffee-table format book, which features hundreds of photographs and thousands of names.

Half of the copies have already been sold but GHS members will have the opportunity to view and purchase copies at our December meeting. The cost is \$55 (includes GST).

Photo courtesy of John Parkyn

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