

Names on the Shorncliffe Military Hospital quilt

Returned Officers Wounded in France, April 1915
Lt Col Jas Ballantine DSO
Capt G.O. Brown
Capt M. McKinley

Rev J Truax
Mrs. Truax
Gowman Truax
Newman Truax
Mr M Near
Mrs. Near
Miss J Purdy
Miss M Matthew
Mrs. Matthew
Mrs. J Cooper
Miss E Irwin
John Cooper
Irwin Matthew
Doris Matthew
Mr F Young
Mrs. Young
Mrs. Cavanagh
Mrs. B Durbin
Mr J Boomer jr
Mrs. Boomer
Mrs. D Brooks
Mr Hc Stapleton
Mrs. Stabelton
Mrs. H Stockford
Mr H Craven
Mrs. Craven
Constance Whitmee
Raymond Whitmee
Mr W Joyce
Miss M Joyce
Miss I Livingstone
Miss M Livingstone
Mr G Bunt
Miss D Ross
Bert Rice
Mr H McNally
Mrs. McNally
Bessie Blair
Lena McNally
Mr F Braisby
Mr J Mason

Quilt sat for decades in a English cupboard

Continued from pg. 1

It was sent to Shorncliffe Military Hospital where many wounded Canadian soldiers returned from battle to be patched up and convalesce. The hospital is located just outside Folkestone in Kent, in close proximity to both Dover and Folkestone ports, making it ideal to transport wounded troops from ships.

As we know, The Great War ended with the signing of the Armistice, November 11, 1918.

It's only speculation, but it's likely the quilt stayed at Shorncliffe for some time after that as many troops remained in hospitals in England for some time, to grow strong enough to endure the sea voyage back to Canada.

At that point, the trail of the Georgetown Women's Institute Shorncliffe quilt goes cold.

Fast forward to the spring of 2012.

Norman Jennings and his wife Daisy Nellie were married in the 1930s, and lived in Kingston, Surrey. Daisy died prior to 2012, and in his final days, Norman talked to his nephew Tony Groves of Wimbledon, London, who was the executor of his estate.

He told Groves that he had 'an army blanket thing in the cupboard' and he didn't know what to do with it. Groves never gave it any more thought at the time.



Maggie and Tony Groves at their home in Wimbledon, London. In the spring of 2012, while clearing the house of Tony's late uncle Norman Jennings of Kingston, Surrey, the pair found the 1915 quilt, which was originally created in Georgetown in 1915, by the local Women's Institute. The quilt was on display at Thornccliffe Military Hospital during the First World War, and later was found in the Jennings' linen cupboard.

Submitted photo

After his uncle died April 23, 2012, Groves and his wife Maggie started clearing his uncle's belongings from his residence.

"We thought no more about it. When he died it was our job to deal with his estate and that's when we first saw it (the quilt)," said Groves. "It was in the linen cupboard with the sheets and blankets."

In addition to the 355 names embroi-

dered on the front, the quilt also had the name and address 'DN Jennings, 23 Orlando Rd SW4' written in ink on the back.

"I knew that Shorncliffe (hospital) housed the military hospitals for Canadian troops so to that extent I knew what I was looking at," said Groves in an email interview. "I also noticed that his (his uncle) wife's address, before they married, was on it, so it must have come through her family. I can only assume that a relative of hers worked at the hospital but that is only a guess.

"So the next question was what to do with it. Sell it? Put it in a drawer for another 100 years?" said Groves. "We made up our minds pretty quickly that if the people of Georgetown made it for their lads all those years ago then they should have it back if they so wished."

Groves searched online and found Georgetown had become part of Halton Hills. He decided to contact Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, and asked him if the town had a museum or a group that would be interested in the quilt.

Bonnette forwarded Groves' query to Esquensing Historical Society (EHS) archivist Mark Rowe, who contacted Groves, May 24, 2012, saying EHS would be quite pleased to accept the quilt.

See HIGH, pg. 6

Mr J Bell
Mrs. G Day
Miss Eva Day
Mr S McKenzie
Mrs. McKenzie
Mrs. W Moore
Miss D Lucas
Gordon Hainer
Mr K M Thornton
Mrs. Thornton
Miss Sadie Leslie
Miss J Baird
Miss A Leslie
Mr T McKay
Mrs. McKay
Mr R Ross
Mrs. Ross
Miss H Ross
Mr E Ross
Miss A Coventry
Mrs. J Pedley
Miss L Reed
Mrs. E Lyons
Mr D Harley
Mrs. W Hamilton
Mr P Tulloch
Mrs. Tulloch
Miss M Tulloch
Mrs. E Royce
Mrs. D Harley
Bertha Follett
Gladys Follett
Margaret Kennedy
Pearl Scott
Alphonse Benham
Eddie McGrath
Mrs. S Young
Mrs. A Morrow
Mrs. C Preston
Mrs. G Beaumont
Miss E Andrews
Miss E Justin
Harry Nevens
Mrs. W Bell
Mr K McDonald
Mrs. McDonald
Mr J Willoughby
Mrs. Willoughby
Mr Wm Barber
Mrs. Barber
Mr J Scott
Mrs. Scott
Mr W Heaton
Mr L Sherier
Miss B Sullivan
Mr D Parr

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ITINERARY & TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, May 31: Evening departure from Toronto, overnight flight to London, England.

Sunday, June 01: Arrival London. We board our coach and enjoy a tour of London before checking into our hotel. - **London 2 nights.**

Monday, June 02: We enjoy a guided tour of the historic and military sites of this world famous city. Buckingham Palace, Churchill's War Rooms and the centre of London will be highlights.

Tuesday, June 03: We travel from London to the Dieppe English Channel sea coast with a stop at Col. John McCrae's grave near Boulogne-sur-Mer where the author of "In Flanders Fields" died in January 1918. - **Dieppe 2 nights.**

Wednesday, June 04: We visit the 3 Canadian landing beaches and monuments of the Dieppe Raid of August 19, 1942 and the Dieppe War Cemetery where 907 Canadians are buried. Later enjoy some free time in this pleasant and attractive seaside town.

Thursday, June 05: We leave Dieppe for Normandy with enroute visit to Pegasus Bridge

where British and Canadian Airborne landed shortly after midnight June 6, 1944 to secure the Eastern flank of the D-Day landing beaches. - **Normandy 3 nights.**

Friday, June 06 & Saturday, June 07: In Normandy we visit Omaha Beach American Cemetery, the Mulberry Harbour site at Arromanches and most of the memorials, cemeteries and Canadian battle sites in Normandy of June, July and August, 1944. Our schedule will be decided to facilitate participation in the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations at the Juno Beach Centre. Visits to historic sites will try to accommodate tour participants' family connections.

Sunday, June 08: We leave Normandy and travel to Ieper (Ypres) with an enroute visit to the battlefields of the Somme. The Newfoundland Park at Beaumont Hamel is considered "the best preserved battlefield of WW1". - **Ieper 3 nights**

Monday, June 09: We follow the route of the "Western Front" from Ieper to the most famous

WW1 Canadian battle site: Vimy Ridge. There we visit the Vimy Ridge Memorial, the trenches, the tunnels and an informative Interpretation Centre, before returning to Ieper and participating in the "Last Post" ceremony held at the Menin Gate each evening since 1928.

Tuesday, June 10: We have an opportunity to explore Ieper and tour major WW1 battle sites, i.e. Essex Farms Cemetery where John McCrae wrote his famous poem May 3, 1915, Vancouver Corner where poison gas was first used in WW1, Langemark German Cemetery with 44,000 burials, Passchendaele Ridge and Tyne Cot Cemetery. We will be awed by the Canadian connection to the "Ypres Salient" in Flanders.

Wednesday, June 11: We leave Ieper and Belgium, travel to Holland and enjoy a visit and canal tour of Amsterdam before checking in at our hotel. - **Amsterdam 1 night.**

Thursday, June 12: Transfer to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport for our return flight to Toronto.

D-Day Normandy 70th Anniversary - Our time at Normandy will be finalized when the official schedules of the commemorations become available. All efforts will be made to visit the most important ceremonies, sites and memorials. Details will be made available with final travel documents. We reserve the right to adjust the tour itinerary accordingly.

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