

# Edwin C. Guillet

## Historian, Author & Cobourg Citizen

Nowadays many of us are hard pressed to *read* 150 books in a lifetime. **Edwin C. Guillet wrote that many, and more.**

Born in Cobourg at the tail end of the nineteenth century (September 29, 1898), Edwin never strayed far from home, lived to be 76 and is buried in Cobourg's Union Cemetery.

After finishing high school, he attempted to enlist with the Cobourg Heavy Battery for service in the First World War but was unable to pass the physical examination due to asthma.

In 1919 he enrolled in the University of Toronto, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Political Economy in 1922. During these years he **developed a keen interest in historical research** and frequented the libraries and archives in the pursuit of knowledge.

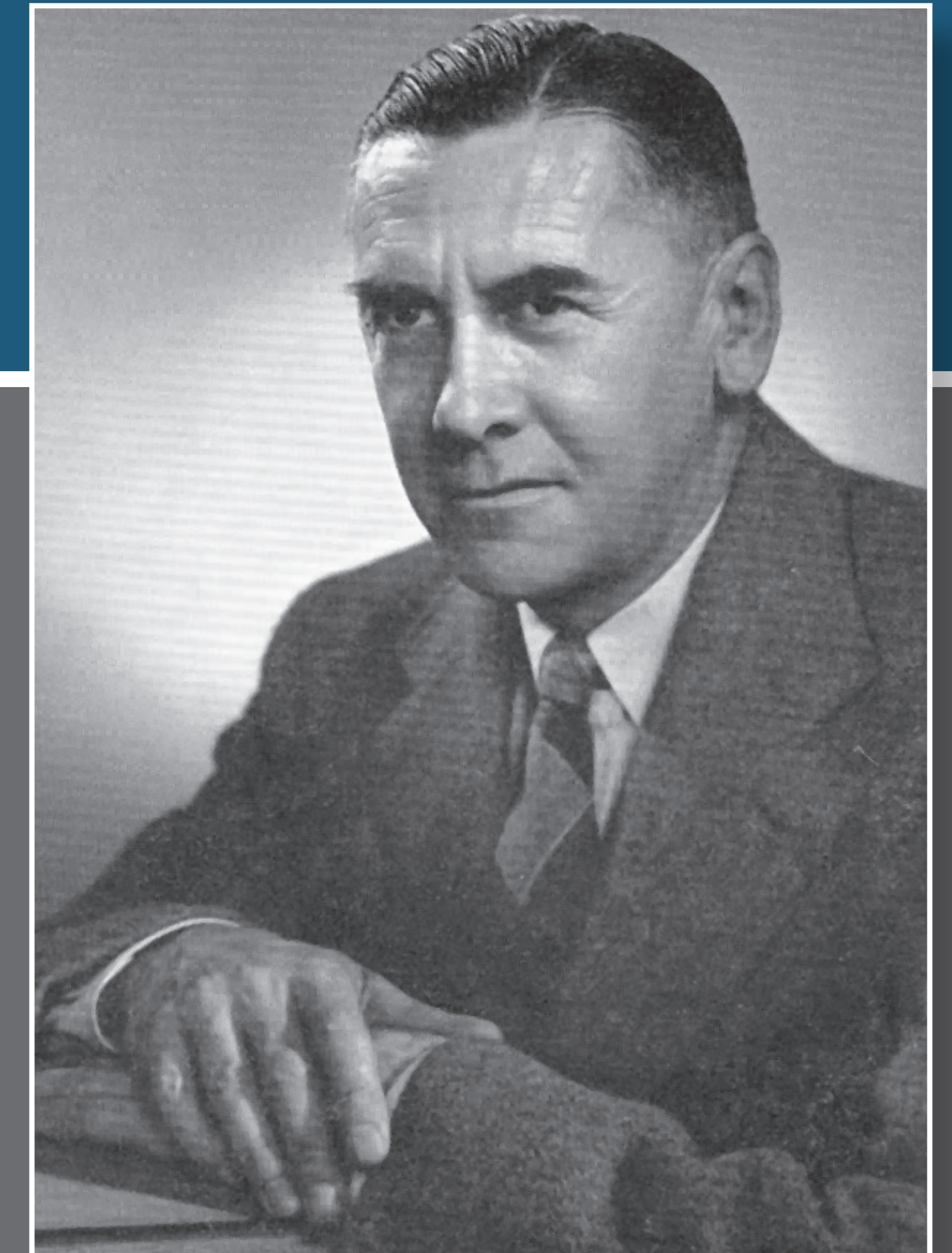
Edwin considered studying law after graduation, but chose to train as a teacher instead. It was while he was at the Ontario College of Education that he met his future wife, Mary Elizabeth Scott.

Edwin joined the staff of Lindsay Collegiate in 1923 followed by a teaching position at the Central Technical School in Toronto from 1926 to 1934. During this time, he completed a **second Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree, both in history from McMaster University.**



After leaving Central Technical School he appears to have concentrated fully on the pursuit of historical enquiry, writing for the *Globe and Mail* and the *Cobourg Sentinel-Star*, and giving public lectures. His publications in these early days included:

- *The Great Migration*, 1937
- *The Lives and Times of the Patriots*, 1938
- *Pioneer Arts and Crafts*, 1940
- *Life Insurance without Exploitation*, 1946
- *Pioneer Settlements*, 1947



Guillet portrait by Yousuf Karsh, 1953



Guillet Home on James St.

