

Noted historian dies at 76

30 June 75

Edwin C. Guillet came back to Cobourg for the last time on Saturday, to be buried among his ancestors in Union Cemetery.

The Cobourg native, longtime teacher, and one of the province's leading historians, died Thursday, June 26, 1975 at North York General Hospital, after suffering a stroke.

He would have been 77 on September 29.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Elizabeth Scott; two sons, James Edwin and George Robert and one daughter Mary Louise (Mrs. Robert White).

Edwin Clarence Guillet's ancestral origins were on the island of Jersey, where the family, which was Huguenot, had fled from France. His parents were Edwin Guillet and Lula Kemp Guillet. His father had been one of 15 children of John Guillet. One brother, George (Edwin C. Guillet's uncle) was a member of the House of Commons for nearly 20 years, succeeding Father of Confederation Hon. James Cockburn in 1881 as MP for West Northumberland.

Edwin Guillet's grandfather first came to Cobourg as a carpenter, and helped to build the steamer Cobourg in 1833. In 1842, he opened a store, and this business continued until 1928 when Edwin Guillet Sr. retired. Finally, it was located on King St. West, where Allen's Hardware is today.

Mr. Guillet wrote 25 books, and countless historical articles. In 1948, he compiled a history of Cobourg which is still being sold. He made endless collections of historical documents and photographs, and Cobourg Public Library and the

Ontario Archives have been the beneficiaries of his perseverance and interest.

He was the province's leading authority on pioneer inns. Probably his outstanding local history book is "The Valley of the Trent", a compilation of historical documents and writings from pioneer days many of them from the Cobourg Star. Some years ago he searched through decades of Cobourg Stars for local history, and this led to a column which appeared in the paper some 30 years ago. It was Mr. Guillet who discovered many of the Paul Kane paintings in this area.

Mr. Guillet attended school in Cobourg in Cobourg, then took a master's degree in English and history from University of Toronto and McMaster. He was a tennis champion while at U. of T. For 33 years, he taught school in Lindsay and Toronto. He summered at a family cottage on Stoney Lake, and used to visit old Cobourg friends each summer. He was a patron of the Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall.

He received an LL.D. from Queen's University in 1960, and the Award of Merit from the Canadian Historical Association in the same year. Five years ago the city of Toronto gave him its Civic Award of Merit.

Among his numerous books are: Early Life in Upper Canada, The Great Migration, The Lives and Times of the Patriots, The Pathfinders of North America, Pioneer Arts and Crafts, Pioneer Inns and Taverns (in five volumes).

The Story of Canadian Roads, The Valley of the Trent.

From 1958 to 1962 he was research historian for the Ontario Archives and went across the province collecting large volumes of documents, paintings and manuscripts. In 1963, he was named Canadiana

consultant to the librarian of Trent University, and he held that post until his death.

The funeral was held Saturday morning from Bloor St. United Church. As well as his wife, sons and daughter, two sisters survive: Marie (Mrs. Charles Scott), and Muriel (Mrs. F. L. Dever).



Edwin C. Guillet, MA, LL.D.

DON'T FORGET

BEWDLEY AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB'S

ANNUAL JULY 1ST CARNIVAL

At the new Vincent Massey Memorial Arena,
Bewdley, Ontario.

MONDAY, JUNE 30

Beer Garden open to 1 a.m.

Dancing to the Cavaliers 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Beer Garden and dancing, noon - 6 p.m. to Eugene and The

A-Guillet family C07-07