

Findlay Weaver Tells of Name Origins and Early History of District

Writing in the Guelph Mercury under date of August 26th, Findlay Weaver gives some interesting historical data which will be read with interest by district residents. The article deals with name origins and family histories and is as follows:

Beverley Township, which fringes the southern boundary of Wellington County, dates its origin to 1798. The region contained the historic "Beverley" swamp which about a century and a half ago was such a difficult region for the passing of the immigrants from Pennsylvania for the settling of Waterloo County to the west. Beverley was named after the place of that name in Yorkshire, England. Upper and Lower Lake Beverley, in Ontario's Leeds County, however, are named after Chief Justice John Beverley Robinson, a veteran of the war of 1812. To him a somewhat ill-fated compliment is made in G. H. Armstrong's "Place Names in Canada," in the passage: "Robinson was a man of fine character, fearless in loyalty, and a member of the historic and tyrannical Family Compact."

In common with the Georgian Bay, the Georgian Strait, separating Vancouver Island from the British Columbian mainland and Georgian Township in York County, Georgetown in Halton County, traces its name to the labored efforts of authorities to honour the memory of Britain's King George III, as recorded in "Place Names in Canada."

Laird History
Laird family history as pertaining to the branch represented by Mac Laird, of Guelph, vice-principal of GCVI, came noticeably to the front in his vacation experiences in Vermont early this month in company with Mrs. Laird and their daughter Catherine. The latter bears a historic Laird family Christian name, this being met almost as frequently in the annals of the family as Peter. Mac had the privilege of going through extensive records in the registry office at Montpelier, Vermont, where his grandfather, Peter Laird, was born in 1807.

He was a building contractor there and for a time had been associated with his father, who had emigrated from Auchterarder, Perthshire, Scotland, settling at Portland, Maine, where he became a shipbuilder.

A branch of the Laird family were United Empire Loyalists who settled near Norval, where Mac's father was born in 1837. Thus from the 1807 birth of his grandfather to the present time, three generations have covered a period of 143 years, which is so unusual that an official at the Montpelier registry office wondered whether one generation had not been missed in the family annals. An explanatory piece of evidence is the fact that Peter Laird was 50 years of age when his son, Mac Laird's father, was born.

The MacNabbs
The Norval Lairds were close associates of MacNabbs, who were pioneers of the community. In the war of 1812 James MacNabb was lieutenant-colonel with the York Rangers in the Battle of Queenston Heights.

For years following the coming of the MacNabbs from Vermont the village now Norval was MacNabbville. The MacNabbs had a large sheep run on the surrounding heights which they called "The Gramplan Hills."

In 1840 it was at the suggestion of Alex MacNabb, last of the family, that the name of the village was changed to Norval. The names "Gramplan" and "Norval" each

appeared in John Home's book called "Douglas", as evidenced by this poetical excerpt:

My name is Norval on the Gramplan Hills;
My father feeds his flocks, a frugal swain,
Whose constant cares were to increase his store,
And keep his only son, myself, at home.

An 1837 Rebellion Incident
Mac's father was a stout old Reformer and he used to tell of exciting times in the days of the '37 rebellion, including the time when William Lyon Mackenzie was charged by the King's men after the Montgomery Tavern debacle, his course of escape including a Peel

County hotel where he was actually cornered, but Mac's father with some others took him upstairs and from a designated point on the verandah which surrounded the whole house, Mackenzie jumped to a waiting horse, so making his escape.

This year's vacation journeying of the Guelph Lairds included visits to several of the New York State lakes, including Lake Placid, at a historical point near which lies John Brown's body still mouldering in the grave.

Newspapermen Visit Petawawa Army Camp

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'chutes are green in colour for easier identification. Without delay, the men began to advance on their objective in leap-frog formations, some groups maintaining a covering of fire from the Brens and rifles while other moved forward at a fast clip. Within a matter of minutes they had covered a mile of territory and were forming ranks behind our observation post. They are as keen and fit a group of men as one could wish to see.

After the paratroops had cleared the field the demonstration of weapons commenced, first rifles and machine guns laying down the fields of fire which would be required to

hold any given position; then the two inch and 3.4 inch mortars, Piat anti tank guns, 6 lb. anti-tank cannon, 25 pound field artillery firing from two and a half miles away, rapid fire Bofors anti-aircraft weapons used for infantry support on ground targets in this case and the medium 5.5 inch artillery.

In the midst of the operation three flame throwers sped into the foreground and spat out their deadly jets of livid fire. The flames shot forward 125 yards and then roared upward in a boiling mass, the smoke cloud they created towering upwards to a thousand feet. The whole effect of the throwers is much like the pictures you have seen of an atomic explosion, though of course in smaller scale. With all weapons in action the field before was solidly covered by a veil of death. Tracer ammunition outlined the course of each weapon's coverage and made the sight breathtakingly spectacular.

Throughout the demonstration a light Auster aircraft, flown by what is termed an Air Observation Post pilot, circled and turned above the area, reporting targets and results of fire to the gunners who were out of sight of the battle scene.

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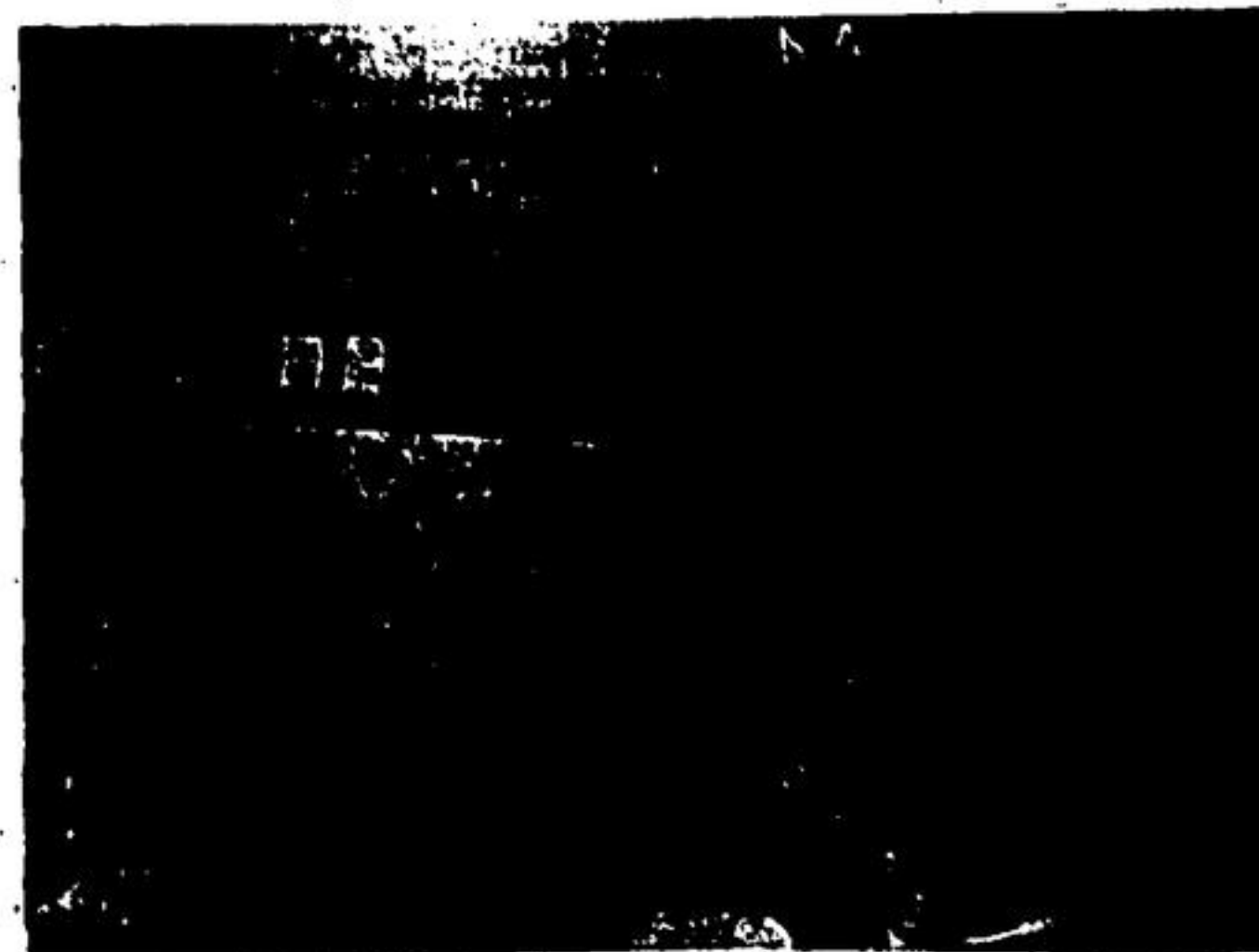
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KINDERGARTEN OF THE AIR: The CBC's daily program for children between the ages of two and six, is responsible for the smiles displayed above by Mrs. Dorothy Adair and her pupils of Givens Street Public School in Toronto. Although designed for the pre-school children who huddle around the radio to hear songs and stories by Dorothy Jane Goulding and Ruth Johnson, the program is also popular with the youngest school-age groups. The program starts its fourth season of broadcasts September 5th on station of Trans-Canada.

Georgetown Fair This Saturday