

The Trail of The Conestoga

Waterloo County in 1803



Presented for
**The Luther League of
St. James' Lutheran Church, Hespeler**
by
**The Class of '32,
WATERLOO COLLEGE**

**Queen's Theatre, Hespeler
Tuesday, December Fifteenth
1931**

The Trail of The Conestoga

From the novel by

B. MABEL DUNHAM.

Dramatization by Eleanor Doherty and Carl F. Klinck.

CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

CHRISTIAN EBY	Mr. Alvin Pauli
NANCY, HIS WIFE	Miss Elizabeth Spohn
BECCY, CHRISTIAN'S NIECE	Miss Margery Tailby
SUSIE	Miss Evelyn Klugman
LIZZIE	Miss Eileen Little
HANNES	Mr. Walter Eifert
SAM BRICKER	Mr. Edward Neigh
JOHN, SAM'S BROTHER	Mr. Walter Hamm
ANNIE, JOHN'S WIFE	Miss Verna Lauman
LITTLE JOHNNIE	Miss Jean Klinck
SAM BETZNER	Mr. James Lochead
ELIZABETH, HIS WIFE	Miss Dorothy Tailby
BARMAID	Miss Jean Brent
GENERAL ISAAC BROCK	Mr. Rudolph Breithaupt
JAMES WILSON	Mr. Herman Little
HEASLEY	Mr. Carl Seltzer
PETER EBY, THE BISHOP	Mr. Henry Enns
JOSIAH SCHNEIDER	Mr. Clare Kruspe
MENNONITES	Mr. Richard Ruch
	Mr. Ryerson Casselman
	Mr. Julius Neff

ACT I.

SCENE 1. The Eby Farmhouse in the Hammer Creek Community, Pennsylvania.

SCENE 2. Some weeks later, just outside of the farmhouse.

ACT II.

SCENE I. Canada: The Betzner clearing in the midst of the Heasley Tract (i.e. near the present Pioneer Memorial Tower on the Grand River not far from Doon, Waterloo County.) The Bricker's Conestoga, just arrived from Pennsylvania, is off-stage at the left.

SCENE 2. Some months later. A tavern in Little York (now Toronto).

SCENE 3. The Heasley Tract once more; this time, at the Bricker clearing.

ACT III.

SCENE 1. The Eby Farmhouse at Hammer Creek, Pennsylvania.

SCENE 2. Just outside of the farmhouse.

SCENE 3. The Eby Farmhouse once more.

NOTES

The action took place in 1802-1804.

The language and accent used are meant to suggest Pennsylvania German constructions and manners of speech.

"Conestoga" is the name given to the covered wagons used by the Mennonites at that time.

An attempt has been made to represent with accuracy the costumes and historical settings of the time. The chair on which Christian sits was carried from Pennsylvania in John Brubacher's conestoga in 1816. Within the same wagon, in an "aus styer", was the fine piece of blue and white linen (woven in Pennsylvania from hand-spun thread) at which Beccy sews in Act III, Scene 1. Beccy's kerchief was part of a Mennonite bride's costume in the early part of the last century. Various other articles used on the stage are treasured relics of other days. For these, as well as for advice regarding pioneer ways, the Class is grateful to Miss Lydia Musselman of Kitchener. To numerous other friends in Kitchener, Waterloo, Hespeler and Elmira, the Class wishes to acknowledge its gratitude for loan of costumes and other articles of historical value. (See back of page.)

OTHER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For kind permission to use her novel	MISS B. MABEL DUNHAM.
For scenery	The Y's Men's Club of Kitchener-Waterloo.
For handling tickets and reservations	Doersam's Book Store, Waterloo Ritz's Drug Store, Kitchener.
For advertising	"The College Cord" Kitchener-Waterloo Street Rail- way.

FOR THE CLASS OF '32

Faculty Advisers and Directors	Miss Eleanor Doherty and Mr. Carl F. Klinck
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Historical

"The Trail of the Conestoga" (Macmillan, Toronto, 1924) has been an outstanding success as a novel. It has ranked as seventh among the most popular Canadian novels in Ontario libraries. Dealing, as it does, with the pioneer Mennonites of this district, it is an invaluable part of the library of every resident of Waterloo County. This story of the trek of these hardy Loyalists, who set out in their Conestoga wagons for a wild new land, is as true as it is romantic. Miss Dunham's novel, and this dramatization of it, have been undertaken in a spirit of sincere respect for those who laid the foundations of this community. A tragedy might have been written around their lives; a comedy has been produced here. Yet nothing which may be humorous has been conceived as ridicule. Although the Mennonites differ in customs and habits from their neighbors, they differ also in that they are probably more heroically loyal to their convictions and to the faith of their fathers. If there is laughter here, it is because there is something laughable in the life of each of us. On the other hand, if there is sadness here, it is because these pioneers had to suffer the pangs of homesickness and actual want more than we, their heirs, can imagine or represent. We dedicate this play, in admiration and in gratitude, to those hardy men and women of Conestoga days.