

Focus on:

ELGIN

international



ELGIN INTERNATIONAL

Mr. Myrton Campbell recently donated an interesting little book to the Library in Elgin. Mr. Campbell had been in correspondence with the author, Mrs. Morag Pirie and his contribution is included in her book Elgin International. The following is a brief review of the book.

Mrs. Morag Pirie of Elgin, Scotland, wrote to all the Elgins in the world for information on their origin and subsequent development. The replies were compiled into a small book which is now available through the Rideau Lakes Union Library system. A foreward was written by the present Lord Elgin, the 11th Earl and Chief of the Name of Bruce.

There are over 40 Elgins scattered throughout the world, in every continent. 27 are in the U.S.A., 9 in Canada, 4 in Australia, 2 each in New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Jamaica and 1 in South Africa. Names like Elgin County and Port Elgin are included, but not compounded names such as Elginburg and Elginfield, Ontario.

Canada's Elgins are in Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario. They were named to honour Lord Elgin, Governor General from 1847-54 and are pronounced with the hard 'g' as in 'begin'. All American Elgin's use the soft 'g' as in 'gin' except for Elgin, Texas where they "like to keep the correct Scottish pronunciation". Other than in Canada there is no one particular reason for the choice of the name, but there is often some Scottish connection. A few owe their origin to an old shipwreck ballad, "Lost on the Lady Elgin".

Elgin, Illinois is by far the largest Elgin, population 65,000, a busy agricultural and commercial centre where from 1867-1966 Elgin watches were made. The next largest are Elgin, Scotland - 19,500; Elgin, South Africa, a fruit farming centre 50 miles north of Capetown-15,000 and Elgin, Texas with 5,000 population.

Elgin, Oregon and Elgin, Oklahoma have over 1,000 inhabitants but no others exceed 1,000 and appear to be small agricultural centres like Elgin, Ontario. A few are merely postal agencies, with zero population.

Elgin, Scotland is by far the oldest Elgin, a picturesque city in Morayshire, in the north-east of the country. It is a busy and growing centre for whisky and woollens and a service centre for the North Sea Oil industry. A few miles away is Gordonstoun School, which Prince Philip and his sons attended. The main tourist attraction is the well-kept ruin of the magnificent mediaeval cathedral, once an established seat of light and learning, interestingly still known as the Lantern of the North.

Book Information: Elgin International compiled by Morag Pirie
Published by Aberdeen University Press
All proceeds to UNICEF

ELGIN, ONTARIO, CANADA

The peaceful Rideau Lake district is the setting for the beautiful village of Elgin, Ontario.

In the year 1802 Ebenezer Halladay, a United Empire Loyalist was granted the land on which the village stands. Ebenezer was one of the many United Empire Loyalists to settle in the Rideau district after the American War of Independence.

The United Empire Loyalists were known as the King's Men and as a mark of honour they were allowed to put U.E.L. after their name. Each loyalist settler was given land according to his rank, 1000 acres to a field officer, 700 acres to every captain and to every subaltern, staff officer and warrant officer 500 acres, each non-commissioned officer received 200 acres and every private 100 acres. In addition to this a further 50 acres were granted for each member of the man's family.

Over the years the village has had three names, the first, Halladay Corners, was chosen after work on the Rideau Canal commenced in 1826 and with the upsurge of population it was decided that the village should have a name. During the 1830's many families were converted to the Mormon faith and in the year 1834 one hundred and thirty five covered wagons travelled from Halladay Corners to the Mormon settlement of Nauvoo in the United States. The village blacksmith at this time was one Harvey Mitchell; Harvey had a dream of one day joining the settlers in Nauvoo, he spoke of his dream so often that the villagers tired of hearing him and decided in jest to change the name of the village to Nauvoo. The final name of Elgin was put forward by Robert Dargavel a Scottish pioneer who wished to honour James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin who was the Governor-General Canada from 1847 to 1855. Since then the village has grown and prospered.

The land on which the old Methodist Church stood was gifted by Ebenezer Halladay, along with a large cash donation; this generous man also donated the land for the village cemetery, which still bears his name. Today his great-grandson Merton Campbell lives on part of the original Halladay farm land.

Farming was the main industry in the early days but in recent years the tourist industry has grown and has been a very important factor in the economic growth of the village.

Visitors are always impressed with the beautiful architecture of Elgin. Large old houses set back from the road in tree-filled gardens. The Anglican Church with its Norman tower, the stained glass of United Church and the large Roman Catholic Church are all very pleasing to the eye.

There are two schools in the village, an elementary and a secondary, and at the other end of the scale a senior citizens complex. The community have their own doctor and dentist and a thriving business section. Many of the residents commute to work in Kingston, Smith Falls and Brockville and in their spare time take part in the busy social life of the village which includes sport and an active Lions Club.

The people of Elgin, Ontario are justly proud of their village and work hard to ensure its future.

The North Leeds Lantern credits the publisher and compiler of Elgin International for the material used in this Focus.

Bed and Breakfast at

Black Church
Gardens
 P.O. BOX 45 DELTA ONTARIO K0E 1G0
 (613) 928-2303

Photography

Show animals a specialty



Jocelyn Raymond
 R.R. #1
 Portland, Ontario
 K0G 1V0
 (613) 272-3178

AUTOPRO

**MUFFLERS
 BRAKES
 SHOCKS**

- Free inspection* and estimate by certified mechanics
 (*for most car models)

- Top quality replacement parts
 Respected national brands
 Abex • Wagner • Gabriel • Verdic

- Autopro National Guarantee
 Honored by over 350 Autopro dealers coast to coast

- Mufflers • brake linings • shock absorbers
 Guaranteed for as long as you own your car



Wayne Carbino

**I care
 about
 your car**

WAYNE'S SERVICE CENTRE

P.O. Box 113
 Elgin, Ontario K0G 1E0

359-5959