

WAR
MEMORIALS
IN MANITOBA

An Artistic Legacy

2014

PREFACE

War Memorials in Manitoba: An Artistic Legacy was inaugurated by Mr. Patrick Morican, who in 1996 developed a comprehensive inventory of 201 known war memorial sites in Manitoba.

In 2013, in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I in 2014, Mr. Morican sought partners to help transform the wealth of information in that inventory into a variety of publically-accessible educational materials. Joining Mr. Morican in this initiative are the Portage la Prairie Heritage Advisory Committee, the Province's Historic Resources Branch, the Manitoba Historical Society and Heritage Manitoba. Links to the last three of these organizations are included below.

Mr. Morican's inventory (reproduced here in an updated format), with copious photographs from on-site visits and transcribed texts from memorial inscriptions, has been the starting point for this current project, which focuses on the history and heritage of Manitoba's war memorials.

Through an exploration of historical and artistic precedents and of Canadian and Manitoba designs and designers, and of course a rigorous examination of all of this province's fine memorials, this project aims to present to readers, and to viewers of these important sites, a sense of the depth of this inheritance.

Historic Resources Branch: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/hrb/>
Manitoba Historical Society: <http://www.mhs.mb.ca/>
Heritage Manitoba: <http://heritagemanitoba.ca/>

INTRODUCTION

This study of Manitoba's war memorials focuses on the artistic legacy of an important collection of heritage sites. It was developed with an eye mainly on aesthetic issues: form, style, materials, designers, and craftsmanship.

But as we studied our collection of monuments, the subject of numbers kept arising.

A number like 201. The total number of community war memorials in Manitoba, this is one for nearly every municipality in the province. In addition to these—the focus of our study—there are hundreds or thousands more, most of them in the form of plaques or rolls of honour, in churches, schools, businesses, clubs and other institutions province-wide, each honouring the memory of members of its own community who fought in the war, and perhaps did not come home.

Or occasional references to the costs of a monument: \$5,500 for example in 1924 for the beautiful memorial, "Miss Canada," in Dauphin; \$1,700 in 1927 for the fine sculptural monument in Roblin; \$1,100 for the handsome Melita cenotaph.

References to fund-raising efforts: at Roblin for example, the donations in the late 1920s (amongst many others) from Mr Kapey for \$25, from the Perriots for \$106.35, the local Football Club for \$50, the Jewish Ladies Aid for \$50, the Cromarty Soft Ball Club for \$10, and the Union Ladies Aid for \$25 – keeping in mind that \$50 from 1927 is worth about \$700 in 2014.

And then, gradually, we come to the most significant number—not immediately apparent when focusing on individual memorials: 5,279 names are carved in the stone or cast in the bronze of Manitoba's community memorials. These are the names of many of the province's men and women lost in World War I—buried in foreign military cemeteries or even lying unmarked in battlefield sites from which their bodies were never recovered.

Even this large number does not tell the whole story. For while that is the number of names engraved for posterity, quite a number of memorials (about 30) do not feature individual names—perhaps the community could not afford to have it done, or chose to memorialize the names on a roll of honour in the town

hall instead. And so we come to an even larger number. According to historians at the Canadian War Museum, 7,760 Manitobans died in the service of the war effort. 61, 543 men and women left their Manitoba homes to fight, or to serve as doctors or nurses or other military supports, and almost 8,000 lost their lives, often in terrible conditions. We must remember their courage and sacrifice.

It is essential that these people be kept in mind as readers explore this study. While our primary purpose is the analysis of memorials as works of art, these thousands of individuals, and those names, can never be far from our thoughts.

The study has been organized according to five main subjects:

- A Brief History of War Memorial Design
- The Making of a Memorial
- Guide to Manitoba Memorial Types
- Local World War I Stories
- Learning Materials

The information in “A Brief History of War Memorial Design” establishes the basic historic and artistic precedents that inform Manitoba’s collection of war memorials. “The Making of a Memorial” provides information on how the grandest of our memorials—those featuring sculptural figures—were created. The “Guide to Manitoba Memorial Types” uses selected examples to help readers and visitors appreciate the artistic qualities of any Manitoba memorial. “Local World War I Stories” features vignettes from some of Manitoba’s local histories that put these memorials into a larger social and cultural context. Finally, the entry “Learning Materials” includes suggestions and resources that school teachers can use to help students appreciate how the local war memorial can be used as a resource for a deeper understanding of their history.

Patrick Morican’s 1996 inventory, the genesis for this present project, is also included, in an updated format and with a few new entries.

Most of Manitoba’s war memorials went up shortly after the end of the First World War – often in the early 1920s. Because their genesis is intimately linked to that war, and because the centennial of its beginning is being commemorated in 2014, this study focuses on Manitoba’s experience with the First World War.

The First World War, World War I, or the Great War as it was widely known until the onset of the Second World War, was a profound period in world history, in Canadian history, and in the history of Manitoba communities. It is impossible, in a study focused on war memorial design, to provide the kind of detail necessary for a thorough understanding of this war, but some background is useful. There are hundreds of excellent sources available in libraries and online for anyone wanting to learn more.

The First World War began in Europe on 28 July 1914, and for Canada it began on 4 August, when Britain declared war on Germany. It lasted until 11 November 1918. Over the course of more than four years (in fact almost 52 months), the war proved to be one of the deadliest conflicts in history. It paved the way for major political changes, including revolutions and the redrawing of international boundaries. In addition to millions of civilians, more than 9 million combatants were killed, a casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and by a lengthy tactical stalemate manifesting itself in a long war of attrition.

The war drew in all of the world's great economic powers, which were assembled in two opposing alliances: the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the United Kingdom and its dominions, France and the Russian Empire) and the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Italy had also been a member of the Triple Alliance alongside Germany and Austria-Hungary, but it did not join the Central Powers because Austria-Hungary, against the terms of the alliance, had taken the offensive. These alliances were reorganized and expanded as more nations entered the war: Italy, Japan and, eventually, the United States joined the Allies, while the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria fought with the Central Powers. Ultimately, more than 70 million military personnel were mobilized in one of the largest wars in history.

There were many theatres of war, but the trench warfare and aerial dogfights of the Western Front—in Northern France and Belgium—have become synonymous with this conflict for many in the Western World, and certainly for most Canadians. Almost every memorial in Manitoba is inscribed with battle names from the Western Front.



A squadron of Sopwith Camels, the type flown by many Canadian fighter pilots

Warfare proved to be very different in this than in previous wars, but it took everyone some time to figure that out. Technological advances, such as newly-lethal artillery, together with extensive defenses built in the years leading up to the war, meant that 19th-century military tactics were no longer effective. Horses were nearly useless, and nests of barbed wire combined with machine-gun fire to make it almost impossible for infantry to advance over open ground. Casualties were heavy as commanders on both sides attempted to take entrenched positions using outdated methods. A bloody and demoralizing war of attrition resulted, though new offensive weapons, such as poison gas and the tank (first used at the Somme in September 1916, and especially effective against barbed wire), disrupted the stalemate. A couple of years into the war, field telephones, wireless communications and offensive aircraft had also come into use and begun to change the rules of warfare.

Aircraft were initially used for reconnaissance and close air support of ground troops. As their utility became evident, anti-aircraft guns and fighter aircraft were developed to shoot them down. Strategic bombers were developed, and towards the end of the war, Sopwith Camels were used for the first time with aircraft carriers. Ace fighter pilots, including several Canadians, were portrayed as modern knights, and many became popular heroes.



Dauphin-born Ace Billy Barker with his Sopwith Camel (Library and Archives Canada)

On the ground, neither side proved able to deliver a decisive blow for the first two years of the war; battles were fought and many died as a few metres of muddy territory changed hands. Despite this general stalemate, these years were marked by bloody battles whose names many Canadians will recognize.

In 1916, the Germans attacked French positions at Verdun, and after ten months of struggle, December of that year saw anywhere from 700,000 to 975,000 casualties and little change in the relative positions of the armies.

During that time, the Battle of the Somme (River) began as an Anglo-French offensive on 1 July 1916—the bloodiest day in the history of the British army, with 19,240 killed and almost 40,000 other casualties. In half an hour on that day, the Newfoundland Regiment was almost obliterated. By the end of the Somme offensive in mid-November of that year, well over a million casualties had been sustained by the two sides.

For many Canadians, Vimy Ridge is the most recognizable battle site associated with the war. Part of the Battle of Arras, in 1917, the capture of Vimy Ridge by the Canadian divisions—fighting together for the first time as a Canadian Corps—has come to be seen as the birthplace of Canada's national identity. Many war memorials include Vimy amongst the battles they list, sometimes, a bit confusingly, along with “Arras,” of which Vimy Ridge was just one part.



Canadian soldiers moving out of a trench onto a battlefield, c. 1916.

The last large-scale offensive of this period was at Passchendaele (the Third Battle of Ypres), lasting from July to November 1917. Some 200,000 to 400,000 casualties were suffered on each side, with men and horses drowning in the deep October mud churned up by weeks of relentless shelling. The name of this Belgian village, forever synonymous with mud, blood and horror, is among the most common battle names that appear on our memorials.

In early 1918, German General Erich Ludendorff planned a major Spring Offensive on the Western Front, beginning in late March with an attack on British forces near Amiens. The hope was to strike a decisive blow before significant American forces could arrive to support the Allies, but after some initial gains, the assault proved futile. It was followed by another major German operation, also unsuccessful, and by 20 July 1918, the Germans were back across the Marne River at their starting lines, having achieved little, with heavy casualties on both sides.



Canadian soldiers carrying a casualty through a bomb-cratered battlefield.

In early August, at the Battle of Amiens, the Allies began a counteroffensive known as the Hundred Days Offensive. Immediate and decisive Allied gains caused the German high command to realize that they could not now win the war. By late September, the first capitulation came when Bulgaria signed an armistice. Further Allied victories culminated at last in the German surrender in November 1918.

On 11 November, at 5:00 a.m., the armistice with Germany was signed in a railroad carriage at Compiègne, France. During the six hours between the signing of the armistice and its taking effect at the symbolic moment of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, opposing armies on the Western Front began to withdraw from their positions, but fighting continued in many areas. Canadian Private George Lawrence Price was shot by a German sniper at 10:57 and died at 10:58; he is considered the last casualty of the war.

No other war has altered the map so dramatically. Four empires disappeared: the German, Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian. Numerous nations regained their former independence, and new ones were created; the redrawing of international borders had consequences stretching into the current century. Four dynasties, together with their associated aristocracies, fell after the war: the Hohenzollerns, the Habsburgs, the Romanovs, and the Ottomans. Many countries were badly damaged, with millions of soldiers and civilians dead or injured, and the social fabric badly frayed.

The effects on Canada, and Manitoba, were tremendous, as suggested in this extract from the Canadian War Museum website ("The War's Impact on Canada"):

Canada emerged from the First World War a proud, victorious nation with newfound standing in the world. It also emerged grieving and divided, forever changed by the war's unprecedented exertions and horrific costs.

The war united most Canadians in a common cause even as the extremity of national effort nearly tore the country apart. Few had expected such a long struggle or heavy death toll. A war fought supposedly for liberal freedoms against Prussian militarism had exposed uneasy contradictions, including compulsory military service, broken promises to farmers and organized labour, high inflation, deep social and linguistic divisions, and the suspension of many civil liberties. Some women had received the right to vote, but other Canadians—recent immigrants associated with enemy countries—had seen this right rescinded.

Government had intervened in the lives of Canadians to an unprecedented degree, introducing policies that would eventually mature into a fully fledged system of social welfare. But it had not prevented wartime profiteering, strikes, or economic disasters, leading many to question the extent to which rich Canadians had sacrificed at all. A massive and unprecedented voluntary effort had supported the troops overseas and loaned Ottawa the money it needed to fight the war. The resulting post-war debt of some \$2 billion was owed mostly to other Canadians, a fact which fundamentally altered the nature of the post-war economy.

Politically, the war was also a watershed. Prime Minister Borden's efforts to win the 1917 election and carry the nation to victory succeeded in the short term, but fractured the country along regional, cultural, linguistic, and class lines. English and French relations were never poorer, and accusations of French traitors and English militarists were not soon forgotten. Quebec would be a wasteland for federal Conservative politicians for most of the next 40 years. Wilfred Laurier's forlorn stand against conscription lost him the election and

divided his party, but helped ensure the Liberals' national credibility, with a firm basis in French Canada, for decades to come.

Labour, newly empowered by its important role in supporting the war effort, pushed for more rights, first through negotiations, and then through strikes. Farmers seethed over agricultural policies and Ottawa's broken promise on conscription. In the post-war period, both groups would form powerful new political and regional parties.

The war accelerated the transformation of the British Empire into the British Commonwealth and demonstrated Great Britain's military and economic reliance on the self-governing dominions. Most of the principal Commonwealth heads of government recognized this, and saw clearly in their wartime contributions the route to greater independence and standing within imperial counsels.

Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden orchestrated a massive national effort in support of the mother country, but also demanded that Great Britain recognize Canada's wartime sacrifices with greater post-war autonomy. Canada signed independently the Treaty of Versailles (1919) that formally ended the war, and assumed a cautious, non-committal role in the newly established League of Nations. London's wartime agreement to re-evaluate the constitutional arrangements between Great Britain and its dominions culminated in the Statute of Westminster (1931), which formalized the dominions' full control over their own foreign policy. Canada's determination to do so regardless had already been made evident during the 1922 Chanak Crisis, when Ottawa insisted on a Parliamentary debate before considering possible support to Great Britain in a military confrontation with Turkey.

Despite the social and political challenges of the post-war period, most Canadians also emerged from the struggle believing they had done important and difficult things together. Their primary fighting force at the front, the Canadian Corps, had achieved a first-class reputation as one of the most effective formations on the Western Front. Their generals and politicians had played an obvious role in victory, and the country itself enjoyed an international standing that few observers in 1914 could have predicted.

These undeniable achievements and challenges do not overshadow the great costs of the war itself, which are also noted on the Canadian War Museum website: Some 619,636 Canadians enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the war, and approximately 424,000 served overseas. Of these men and women, 59,544 members of the CEF died during the war, 51,748 of them as a result of enemy action. The small Royal Canadian Navy reported 150 deaths from all causes. No accurate tabulation exists for Canadians who served as volunteers in the Royal Navy or British army, or with the French army. An additional 1,388 Canadians died while serving with the British Flying Services.

Of the more than 172,000 Canadians who reported wounds during the war, medical authorities classified approximately 138,000 as battle casualties. The rest were injuries suffered away from the war zone. Of the wounded who survived, 3,461 men and one woman had a limb amputated. One soldier, Curly Christian, survived the loss of all four limbs. No reliable method existed for tracking or treating psychological casualties, but authorities identified over 9,000 Canadians as suffering from "shell shock," which we now know as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

It is within this context—the real cost of lives—that this study has been developed. The conflict that we now commonly call the First World War, and which many at the time called the Great War, is the primary focus for the information developed here. But it is important to note that the lost of World War II (1939-1945), the Korean War (1950-1953), and more recent conflicts like the Afghanistan War, as well as casualties in peacekeeping missions, are also featured on many war memorials.

Manitoba memorials, mostly created shortly after the end of the First World War, are thus looked to again and again to commemorate lives sacrificed. And we are asked, again, to honour, to remember, and even to question.

These beautiful and poignant memorials stand as appropriate places to remember the dead we never knew, and, in contemplating the nature of their sacrifice, to—as the memorial at Virden exhorts us (borrowing from Lincoln's Gettysburg address) "Highly Resolve that the Dead Shall not have Died in Vain."

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WAR MEMORIAL DESIGN



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A war memorial may take many forms, though for most people the first thing that comes to mind is probably a freestanding monument, whether more sculptural (such as a human figure) or architectural (such as an arch or obelisk).

Other likely possibilities include buildings (functional—such as a community hall or even a hockey rink—or symbolic), institutions (such as a hospital or endowed nursing position), fountains or gardens.

Today, in the 21st century West, we usually think of a war memorial as intended primarily to commemorate the sacrifice and memorialize the names of individuals who went to war (most often as combatants, but also as medical or other personnel), and particularly those who were injured or killed. We generally expect these memorials to include a list or lists of names, and the conflicts in which those remembered were involved—perhaps even individual battle sites. This is a comparatively modern phenomenon, however; the ancestors of this type of memorial were designed most often to celebrate a victory, and made no mention of individual sacrifice. Particularly recent is the notion that the names of the rank and file, and not just officers, should be set down for remembrance.

Ancient Precedents

The war memorials familiar at first hand to Canadians are most likely those erected in the years after the end of the First World War. Their most well-known distant ancestors came from ancient Rome, and many (though by no means all) 20th-century monuments derive their basic forms from those of the ancient world. These Roman monuments were large structures, especially triumphal arches (such as the Arch of Titus, 82 AD) or victory columns (e.g. Trajan's Column, 113 AD). They had no individual memorial function, except to preserve in glory the name of an emperor or perhaps a great general, and were—as the name suggests—not about sacrifice and sorrow, but about victory. More modern descendents of such structures include familiar monuments such as the Arc de Triomphe, in Paris (1806-1836, commemorating the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars), and Nelson's column, in London (1840-43, commemorating Admiral Horatio Nelson, who died in the Battle of Trafalgar). Less familiar is Nelson's column in Montréal (1809). These monuments suggest, by their very names, their function of memorializing a victory and the powerful man who effected it. In Canada, Brock's Monument on Queenston Heights (1823-24; destroyed and rebuilt 1853-56) is another example of a column built to commemorate a single man, and a General. None of these structures made any pretence to commemorate the common soldier.



The Arch of Titus, commemorating the popular Emperor Titus and his victory in Jerusalem, has been the model for many triumphal arches since. (Dnlor 01)

19th Century

For the greater part of Europe's bloody history, no attempt was made to bury the bodies of enlisted men in a known location, much less to identify those killed in battle or to keep a record of their names. Well into the 19th century, the majority of the dead were buried as quickly as possible in mass graves, their names remembered only by their friends and families. After the Crimean war, fertilizer companies scooped up soldiers' bodies to manure the crops at home. Though memorials were erected to British dead in the course of Britain's many small imperial wars, they were typically put up by the involved regiments, and did not name individual soldiers, particularly enlisted men.

With changing notions of nationhood and citizenship in 19th-century Europe, however, the citizen-soldier's self-sacrifice on the battlefield came to seem what Karine Varley has called the "ultimate act of patriotic devotion." In a society developing creeping doubts about the absolute promise of a heavenly afterlife, it was crucial for fighting men and their families that an early death should itself seem worthwhile. For states expecting men to lay down their lives—especially far from home, making it harder to convince them that they were defending their own hearths and families—it became convenient to emphasize the patriotic nature of the act of war through ritual and tradition.

Nearing the fourth quarter of the century, the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 became the first widely-commemorated conflict in Europe and also the first one in which an effort was made to bury every soldier and officer, albeit often hurriedly. For the first time, "ordinary soldiers were granted permanent resting-places, war memorials were erected in their honour, and each year, communities gathered to commemorate their deaths. The rituals, language, creation of sacred places, and objects that developed through the commemoration of the Franco-Prussian War helped to lay the foundations for the practices of remembrance for the First World War." In this war, as Varley observes, the civilian population began to try to "reclaim some dignity for the dead" who had often been buried crudely and without ceremony by one side or the other. Local people erected little crosses to mark grave sites hastily filled in by the authorities, sometimes during a cease fire called for that purpose. Some villages even held funerals for dead combatants on both sides. Despite these individual efforts, most fallen soldiers were still buried in mass graves, and the memorials did not list the names of the dead. Nonetheless, this war did see the first extensive memorials,

and communities gathered around them yearly to commemorate their losses and to remind (and perhaps convince) themselves of the glory of the sacrifice and its noble patriotic purpose.



A 1914 photo showing a group standing in front of a memorial commemorating battles of the Franco-Prussian War involving the 5th Army Corps.

Just before the Franco-Prussian War, the American Civil War (1861-65) had represented the first large-scale attempt (on the part of the victorious Union) to disinter the dead from their hasty battlefield burials—or, in some cases, to collect their bones from the ground where they lay—and rebury them in central cemeteries after the war (Faust, 211). Initial attempts had been made by both sides to keep lists of those who died, to bury them, and to keep some record of where they were buried, but these tasks were often overwhelmed by the urgent needs of the injured and ill. After the war had ended, supporters of the bill to “establish and protect national cemeteries,” passed early in 1867, argued that the state had an obligation to the bodies of its soldiers, and even that the obligation to the common soldier was equal to that owed to the higher-born. The resulting reinterment programme provided individual burials for those who might initially have been pushed en masse into ditches. It also afforded an opportunity to mark graves with a name, although this was often impossible in an era before soldiers were provided with identifying “dog tags.” For those who could be identified, the government offered families the option of having their loved ones’ bodies sent home for burial; this practice has continued through to the present.

This government-sponsored effort to provide a decent burial for the soldiers of the winning side did not extend to the Confederate dead. In the South, well-to-do white women formed memorial associations to improve and maintain Confederate graves, and to bury the scattered dead in hallowed ground in new or expanded cemeteries. Only after the Spanish-American war in 1898, where northern and southern soldiers fought side-by-side, did Confederate graves become American graves, as President McKinley announced that the federal government would finally take a share in their maintenance.

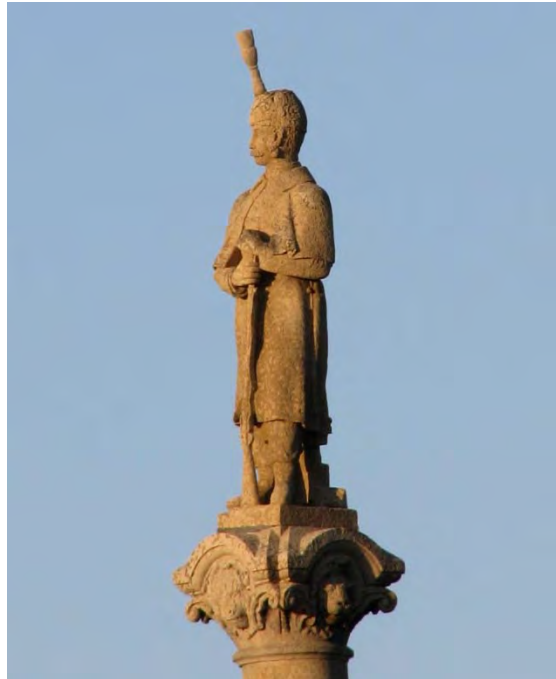


Civil War Memorial in Stratford, Connecticut, 1889. Like this one, a number of Civil War memorials are constructed of cast zinc (or "white bronze"), a process that became available in the 1870s. Relatively inexpensive, it enabled communities to erect very large and ornate monuments like this one, which lists the names of those who died. (Jon Best)

The Civil War was the first conflict in the United States to be heavily memorialized. The reason for this probably lies in the facts that the soldiers were almost all citizen volunteers, and that the war was so incredibly bloody and took such an unprecedented toll on life. When it finally ended, non-combatants were eager to express their gratitude for this sacrifice. Battlefield memorials are particularly prominent. They were erected with large budgets, often by state governments, with reference to particular events or people. But there are also widespread community memorials dedicated to everyone who died (or sometimes who fought) from a given community. A few of these went up even

before the war had ended, and these tended to take simpler forms such as obelisks. Numerous memorials were added over the course of decades, following the styles dominant at the time (“Connecticut’s Civil War Monuments”).

Several aspects of the Civil War memorialization of soldiers have parallels in activity during and after the First World War, particularly the reinterment of bodies in National Cemeteries, though it is not clear that there was a direct influence. In addition, a widespread creation of community war memorials, complete with lists of names, would occur after the Great War across the British Empire (though much less so in the United States). It is likely, however, that Canada’s war memorials owe more to the British tradition.



The Volunteers Monument in Winnipeg (Samuel Hooper, 1886) was dedicated to nine men of the 90th Winnipeg Battalion who were killed in the Northwest Rebellion, and whose names are carved in the stone. As a regimental (though privately funded) memorial, this has more in common with those erected during Britain’s various imperial wars than it does with the community memorials that followed the earlier U.S. civil war or the later Boer War. (Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society; Christian Cassidy)

Early 20th Century

The Second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) saw large numbers of volunteers joining the ranks of professional soldiers in the British army. The grieving families of the dead were not happy to see their sons and husbands unceremoniously dumped into unmarked graves as in previous conflicts, their personal belongings and even teeth often removed and sold. As a result, the army, for the first time, took responsibility for both burying and recording the graves of the dead. The Royal Engineers were given this job ("Honouring the Fallen"). A volunteer group called the Guild of Loyal Women took over the responsibility for looking after graves and cemeteries, and recording grave locations. They became overwhelmed by the task, however, and burial grounds in South Africa quickly fell into disrepair.



1902 Boer War Memorial (figure carved in Carrara, Italy), Camperdown, Australia (Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd)

More relevant for our study of war memorials in Manitoba is the fact that, in response to this war, many towns and cities in Britain and elsewhere in the Empire raised funds and erected monuments to their citizens who had fought and died. Meurig Jones suggests that these memorials "represent the first ever mass raising of war memorials" in the United Kingdom.



1903 Boer War Memorial, Forest Recreation Ground, Nottingham, England
(Nottinghamshire Heritage Gateway)

This move to memorialize can be ascribed to a number of causes. These include the high number of volunteer combatants (as opposed to professional soldiers), patriotic fervour at the height of Empire, a growing middle class with some money to spare, a contemporary culture of chivalry that made death in battle seem noble and worthwhile, and newly-efficient and speedy communications that gave the public at home access to the dread events in South Africa almost as soon as they occurred—giving rise, for the first time, to the possibility of a “popular mood” that could affect the entire country, plunging it into collective pride or despair as the war unfolded far away (Jones).



1903 Boer War Memorial, Halifax Public Gardens, NS (Friends of the Public Gardens)

First World War

Many Anglo-Boer War memorials bear a strong formal resemblance to the First World War monuments that were to rise a couple of decades later in towns and cities across the world. In addition, they often included complete lists of names, generally divided by rank. But the Great War—involving millions of volunteer combatants and unthinkable casualties over countless battlefields—provided a challenge unprecedented: a gargantuan task of memorializing on a hitherto unknown scale.

The task was begun by Fabian Ware. A British subject who had worked in the Transvaal from the mid-1890s, he had seen the devastation wrought by the Anglo-Boer War and had been saddened by the declining state of the memorials and grave sites of his dead countrymen. Past fighting age in World War I, he commanded a mobile unit of the British Red Cross in France. At his behest, his unit took on the daunting task of recording and caring for graves, many of which started out as makeshift “soldiers’ cemeteries,” marked by helmets balanced on rifles, sometimes with rough crosses and inscriptions; Ware sought to make these into permanent burial grounds (Lichfield). By 1915, the War Office had incorporated this work into the responsibilities of the British Army, under the auspices of the newly-named Graves Registration commission (Commonwealth War Graves Commission website), which soon found itself fielding large numbers of requests for photographs and information (“Honouring the Fallen”). The Graves Registration Commission acquired extensive plots of land from the French government that could be used for permanent cemeteries, and made the somewhat momentous decision to allow no further bodies to be repatriated; all soldiers would be buried in these official cemeteries, near the place they had fallen. Furthermore, officers and enlisted men would lie together, regardless of rank. Renamed the Directorate of Graves Registration and Enquiries, the Commission would send bereaved families a photograph of their loved one’s grave, with instructions for finding it should they be able to visit one day.



An example of the information sent by the War Office to a deceased soldier's next of kin, this card includes a photograph of the grave of Private Ernest P. Bartlett, killed on 8 August 1918 and buried at Hourges Orchard Cemetery, Domart-sur-la-Luce, along the Somme River, France. (George Metcalf Archival Collection CWM 20010076-007)

Imperial War Graves Commission

As the war and the slaughter continued, Ware and his compatriots began to think about longer-term maintenance for the burial sites. They were also eager for their work to reflect the spirit of Imperial Cooperation evident in the war effort itself, and in 1917, the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) was established. The membership of the Commission (renamed the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1960), comprised the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa, with each country providing funding according to the number of soldiers it had lost. The Commission's work began in earnest after the Armistice, when they began identifying and registering graves, and eventually moving tens of thousands of bodies to new Imperial war cemeteries (work that still continues as bodies are unearthed in the course of agriculture or construction). For the important work of memorializing the Empire's war dead, the IWGC employed luminaries of architecture, landscape and literature: Sir Herbert Baker, Sir Reginald Blomfield and Sir Edwin Lutyens to design the monuments, with typeface designed by Max Gill; Gertrude Jekyll to oversee the landscape design, and Rudyard Kipling to choose the inscriptions. The first three experimental cemeteries were completed in 1921, with one at Forceville, France, being deemed the most successful and becoming a template for further work.



A military cemetery at Coxyde, Belgium as IWGC standard headstones (right) replace the wooden crosses of wartime burials.

Most of these cemeteries are at or near battlefield sites in Europe and elsewhere. But we find war graves on the home front as well, because any veteran has the right to military burial. Sometimes one runs across a solitary War Graves Commission stone in a church cemetery, and some cemeteries have larger areas set aside for war graves. In Manitoba, wartime burials might have been for soldiers who were killed in early training and never made it to the battlefield, or for injured soldiers who were sent home to die. Later burials might be for soldiers who died of war-related causes after the Armistice: of wounds, of the effects of gas, or of suicide brought on by what was once called shellshock, and we now know as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Looking at the dates on the stones, we can see that some veterans who lived to a ripe old age also chose to receive a soldier's burial.

War Graves Commission cemeteries are not identical, but they have certain features in common. Most have stone enclosing walls and wrought-iron gates, and all feature standard headstones. Cemeteries with more than forty graves generally have a Cross of Sacrifice as a focal point. Designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, the Cross of Sacrifice is a granite cross with a bronze sword embedded on the front, mounted on an octagonal base. Brandon and Winnipeg's Brookside Cemeteries both have Crosses of Sacrifice.



Brandon Cross of Sacrifice

Larger cemeteries, generally those with over a thousand graves (though there are exceptions such as at Brookside), also have a Stone of Remembrance, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Devoid of overt religious symbolism, the Stone recalls a tomb or perhaps an altar. The gravestones themselves are of light-coloured limestone and differ only in their inscriptions. They generally feature an appropriate religious symbol, a national emblem (in Canada's case, a maple leaf) or regimental badge, the soldier's name, rank, unit, date of death and age. Relatives also had the opportunity to pay for a short epitaph or other inscription to be added.



The only Stone of Remembrance in North America, at Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg (Commonwealth War Graves Commission Canadian Agency)

Around the periphery of many cemeteries overseas are graves marked "A Soldier of the Great War/Known unto God." The bodies of these soldiers were unidentifiable. But though their graves do not identify them, the IWGC's great memorials to the Missing ensure that their names are preserved.



Thiepval Monument to the Missing. Unveiled in 1932, this vast structure is inscribed with the names of 72,195 British and South African men who went missing in the Battles of the Somme. (Carl's Brum Blog; 1st Battalion, the Cheshire Regiment)

These enormous monuments, architectural in scale, were intended both to convey the enormity of the collective loss and to provide a slate upon which to carve the name of every soldier whose body had never been found, or could not be identified, and who therefore had no known headstone. The most famous of these are probably Blomfield's Menin Gate, at Ypres, with its more than 55,000 names, and the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme, by Lutyens, commemorating over 72,000 lost. A little later, some other members of the Commission built their own memorials to the Missing. Canada's principal memorial, at Vimy Ridge, was designed by the sculptor Walter Seymour Allward. It names 11,285 soldiers who disappeared into the mud in France, as well as serving as a memorial to all the dead of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.



Canadian National Memorial, Vimy (1936). This memorial is dedicated to the memory of some 60 thousand dead of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The names of over 11 thousand, missing in France, are carved in the stone. At right, a young “Mother Canada” mourns her dead. (Juno Beach Educator Tour; Michael MacKay)

The War Graves Commission’s decision not to allow the repatriation of bodies of men who died overseas meant that, for the majority of bereaved families, they would never see the place where their lost loved ones were buried. In addition, there were the countless soldiers who had simply disappeared in the fray – their bodies never recovered or unidentifiable. These facts gave war memorials on the home front a particularly poignant function: they stood in for the gravestones that many soldiers never had, or that their families would probably never see. The carving of names into these memorials provided a gravestone in absentia for mourning every lost soldier.

The Cenotaph and the Unknown Warrior

For the families of those whose bodies had never been identified or found, a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier could provide a focal point for grief. The first, known as the Unknown Warrior and buried in London in 1920, was chosen from amongst six unidentified bodies collected from cemeteries in different locations in Europe; this was to ensure that the body could, in theory, be anyone's son, thus imbuing the tomb with special resonance for those who had lost a family member. (Canada's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was established at the cenotaph in Ottawa only in 2000, and holds the body of an unidentified soldier who was killed at Vimy Ridge.)



The unveiling ceremony at the Cenotaph on Whitehall, in London, 11 November 1920

London's Unknown Warrior was buried among monarchs in Westminster Abbey, simultaneously with the burial of an unknown French soldier at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. At the same time, England's cenotaph was unveiled at Whitehall. This was a permanent copy in stone of a version originally designed by Lutyens in plaster and wood, for the London Victory (or Peace Day) Parade, commemorating the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The cenotaph is a stark stone pylon, rising, through a series of several set-backs, to the representation of an empty tomb (or "cenotaph", in Greek) at its summit. Various interpretations, the cenotaph became a model for many other war memorials in England and across the empire, including in Manitoba.

Many memorials that were vaguely vertical or tomb-like were at the time described as “like the cenotaph” (King, 147), but many others are copies or heavily-influenced by this form.

MANITOBA

Winnipeg had its own temporary cenotaph, erected by the Women’s Canadian Club outside the Bank of Montréal at Portage and Main, in June 1920 (*Manitoba Free Press*, Saturday 5 June 1920). It stood for about three years, and was then replaced by the Bank’s own bronze figure of a soldier, which stands there still.



Winnipeg’s Temporary Cenotaph, with the Bank of Montréal visible at right. On the front was painted “The Glorious Dead; Their Name Liveth Forevermore” (Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Smith Collection).

The removal of the temporary cenotaph prompted a public demand for a replacement. After considerable delay resulting from controversy over both the site and the sculptor, Gilbert Parfitt’s grey stone cenotaph was erected on Memorial Boulevard outside the legislature. A number of other Manitoba communities also opted for a cenotaph form for their memorials.

THE MAKING OF A MEMORIAL



THE MAKING OF A MEMORIAL

Designing and building Manitoba's community war memorials was a remarkably complex enterprise, which is well worth examining. It is likely that we will never know exactly how any given monument came together or who was involved, but we can learn something of the process through a variety of sources.

Many memorials are the product of several different people or firms: possibly an architect or designer, a sculptor, a carver, and a monument maker, as well as the actual installers.

Before a community could even begin thinking much about designers and materials, though, it generally had to gather funds. In the majority of cases, funds were collected—in amounts from as little as fifty cents to quite large sums—from community members and local organizations, such as sports teams, churches, lodges, social clubs and business organizations. Rarely did a local government commit any money, though Neepawa was an exceptional case. Quite often, the whole effort was spearheaded by a women's organization such as the Women's Institute or the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. Energized by the wartime necessity of filling the shoes of men at the front, such groups found themselves with newly-gained confidence and hard-won credibility as they forged ahead in the pursuit of the public good (Shipley, 57).



War Memorial inscription, advising of the sponsors: "Erected by the Imperial Order/ Daughters of the Empire/ Carberry." (Historic Resources Branch)

Some communities debated the type of memorial they wanted. Should they spend their money on something practical, like a community hall? Some people argued that a useful memorial—especially if it were something they might have built anyway—would not express the deep respect for the dead that a statue, obelisk or other monument would do. Others thought that a building people

used often would keep the memory alive more effectively than a statue in the park could do. Already in 1923 the Board of Trade in Brandon had concluded that “statuary, beautiful as it is, as a war memorial is becoming threadbare” (*Winnipeg Tribune*, August 14, 1923, p. 2). They recommended the purchase of a carillon of twenty-three bells, though a year later Brandon erected a stone Cross of Sacrifice.

Once a community or committee had determined that it would erect a war memorial of some kind, it was quite common for representatives to write to the government—often the Ministry of Defence—for advice. They asked for design ideas, suggestions about suitable locations, and, of course, money. By 1919, the government had determined that it would not pay for community war memorials. Indeed, strapped as it was for cash in the post-war era, the Ministry regularly charged communities for paltry favours, such as for the train fare for the buglers it sometimes lent to unveiling ceremonies (Shipley, 62-3).



War Memorial at Douglas (Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

One thing the government would often provide was captured guns—war trophies from the front. These were collected throughout the war, and the Dominion Archivist, Sir Arthur Doughty, had the task of recording where and by which unit they had been taken, and where they ended up (Shipley, 161-4). Sir

Arthur received hundreds of requests for guns to use on memorials; by the time he was finished, 3,450 German guns were in use beside, on, or even as memorials across the country. Most have disappeared, some having rotted or been removed for safety reasons. Many others were melted down during World War II. In Selkirk, the town council decided in 1942 to turn the guns in War Memorial Park over to the local salvage committee to support the new war effort (*Winnipeg Tribune*, April 1, 1942, p. 11). Douglas, Manitoba has one of the few remaining examples – a machine gun that sits on top of its monument.



Treesbank War Shrine in 1968 (Public Archives of Manitoba, Smith Collection)

Like the one in Douglas, some of the simplest monuments are cairns, perhaps constructed by handy community members, probably from local stones. A bronze or marble plaque with inscriptions most likely came from a nearby monument maker. A more unusual “homemade” monument was put up in Treesbank even as the war still raged, dedicated to the men “who have fought, are fighting and will fight for King and Country, for freedom and for civilization” (*Manitoba Free Press*, March 10, 1917). Completed eighteen months before the Armistice, the painted wooden “Treesbank War Shrine” (since replaced by a stone cairn) was about three metres in height, with painted

inscriptions that suffered badly from weathering despite the shingled overhang protecting them. A Union Jack once fluttered from the flagpole at its peak.

Requiring the services of one or more professionals are the various tablets, obelisks, columns, etc. that make up a large number of Manitoba's memorials. These, too, are most likely to be fairly local productions, having been designed and made by whatever nearby firm was generally in charge of gravestones and similar monuments. More elaborate constructions often involved an architect working with a monument firm. The cenotaph in Stonewall, with its four lion's head fountains, is such an example. It was designed by the Winnipeg architect Gilbert Parfitt and built of Tyndall and local stone.

Many of the most complicated monuments are those topped by figural sculptures, which are most often stone (usually marble; a few granite or limestone) or, more rarely, bronze. These figures are generally standing on a stone pedestal of more or less complexity. Most often, the pedestals, with their inscriptions, were made locally or semi-locally by a monument maker (a firm which might find most of its business making gravestones), but the sculptural parts are almost always imported. The next section provides more information about figural sculptures.

Memorials in Manitoba and elsewhere range enormously in their size and grandeur, but the grief and pride that underlie them are palpable in each. We always hope that, by remembering the past, we will protect ourselves from repeating it. But even as some of Manitoba's memorials had barely been unveiled—hats only just replaced on the bared heads of bereft families and friends, the bugle back in its case—the rumblings of the next war were audible.

Not long after these memorials were erected, "lest we forget," another generation of young men was sucked into the abyss. Once that conflict had finally ended, space was found on many memorials to carve a fresh set of names. A discerning eye might detect a slight difference in the words "World War II," perhaps compacted a little to fit where, it was thought, no such addition would be needed. Sometimes a bronze or stone plaque or a separate tablet is added for the second war. On many memorials, the Korean War also finds a place. Other communities choose to add a second cairn or a nearby slab for these later conflicts.



Memorial at Elm Creek. The red stone directly below the obelisk is engraved "To the immortal memory" of the sixteen men (their names on the sides of the stone) from the district who died in the Great War. Five battle sites are listed on the back. The lower, dark grey stone, tablet at the bottom was added later, and reads "In memory of those who gave their lives in the war of 1939-1945. It lists 21 names. (Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Planning the Memorial

We know of no detailed information on the processes that must have attended the commissioning, planning, design, manufacture and construction of any Manitoba monuments. But there is good information available on the design and manufacture of the memorial in Moosomin, Saskatchewan—which is on the Trans-Canada Highway not far from Virden—and it is reasonable to assume that the process was not so different from what went on in many Manitoba towns. (See the entry for Moosomin, on the website “We will Remember.”)



Italian-produced Bronze Soldier at Moosomin, Saskatchewan (Alan MacLeod, by permission)

In Moosomin, initial planning and fundraising began as early as 1919. The process officially started early in 1923, with an advertisement in the local newspaper seeking sculptors and marble firms to provide sketches and design ideas within a budget of \$4,000. The response was surprisingly broad: a dozen

firms or individuals (including a sculptor from California) submitted ideas, but the committee was able to winnow these quickly down to three or four as they had already decided they wanted a bronze statue of a soldier standing on a stone monument with names carved into it.

The successful bidder was Guinn and Simpson, of Portage la Prairie, which we know to have been responsible for a number of monuments in Manitoba. Reportedly, they recommended their design number 172 to Moosomin, which seems to suggest that they may have had at least 171 others available. Apparently, despite the firm's experience, a delay was caused when they learned that they would require a larger main stone on which to carve the more than 60 names of Moosomin war dead—a much longer list than they had expected.

It appears that Guinn and Simpson placed an order for a bronze soldier figure with an Italian bronze foundry in June 1923, about the same time they began work on the granite base. The majority of the Italian figures that were imported to Canada were carved in marble, but the people of Moosomin made the wise, if expensive, decision to use the much more durable material. It seems that the bronze figure was cast in Florence from a plaster model made in Carrara by a sculptor named Sergio Vatteroni. Once cast, it was shipped by steamer to New York, making its way to Moosomin via Montréal. Delays caused by shipping difficulties meant it could not be unveiled on November 11th of that year, as planned, but had to wait until the late summer of 1924.

A site was selected at a downtown intersection, needing only to have a deep pothole filled (perhaps the reason that such a prominent site was still available) and concrete poured. The Government of Saskatchewan lent the town an engineer to help with the planning and technical aspects of that project, and the work was carried out by volunteers. Another provincial government department provided blueprints for landscaping.

We can thus see that a lot of people were involved in the planning, design and erection of this monument. This does not even include the many who involved themselves in fundraising, including an energetic local girls' club formed specifically for the purpose.

Looking back from nearly a century later, it may come as a bit of a surprise that a small prairie town was blithely ordering bronze statuary from Italy and corresponding with Californian sculptors, but this is the story of many such memorials in Manitoba and elsewhere. Of Manitoba's many memorials topped

by figures, all of the marble figures are almost certainly imported from Carrara, with the supporting plinths etc., and their inscriptions, and sometimes relief carvings, having been done more locally. That being said, a number of these figures were designed by local sculptors, and several other figures were actually made in Canada—a few even in Manitoba. Following is an effort to identify and describe the major factors—materials, firms, and people—in the making of Manitoba's war memorials between the wars.

Design and Craftsmanship

Across Canada, figural memorials were one of the most popular types, and Manitoba has many examples. Though some are rather generic, many others are fine works of art, and evoke strong emotional reactions. They are most often carved in marble, but a few are bronze or carved in granite.

The first thing to understand is the basic differences between the common materials used for figural sculptures such as these. The two most likely materials are bronze and stone, with bronze being particularly long-lasting, and also by far the more expensive option. Stone ranges from quite soft and subject to weathering (such as marble) to very hard (igneous rocks such as granite) though no stone is as robust as bronze. Stone monuments of all kinds are also vulnerable to vandalism; they may be broken when hit with a hard object, and paint is difficult or even impossible to remove completely.

The nature of bronze casting makes it a highly repeatable material. Putting it very simply, a mould is made from a full-sized sculpture (probably a plaster cast made from an original modeled in clay) and that mould is used to make any number of identical hollow bronze casts. Although many casts may be made, they are not considered to be copies of an original. Until the early 1920s, there were no facilities for casting large-scale bronzes in Canada, and figures from before (and many from after) that time were most likely cast in Europe or perhaps the United States. Bronze is a very expensive material, and bronze sculptures are a big investment. Theoretically, though, they will last forever. Though there is a long history of bronze sculptures being melted down to make different sculptures, or weapons, this was more of a risk in centuries past.

Stone statues must each be carved individually. However, when most of Manitoba's memorials were made, it was possible to purchase a quasi-mass produced, albeit hand-carved, figure. As this section will explain, the majority of stone memorial figures in Canada (and elsewhere, including Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand) were carved from marble in workshops in Carrara, Italy. The carving was done by individuals, and the figures range widely in quality. The Carrara quarries would also carve in marble figures originally sculpted in clay by Canadian artists, giving us several examples in Manitoba of Italian marble carvings whose original designer was Manitoban. At least one Canadian firm also had a stable of stone carvers who turned out multiple copies of an original design.

Marble Figures

All of the marble figures on World War I memorials in Manitoba and elsewhere are almost certainly of Italian manufacture. In general, a local memorial manufacturer would have been the go-between for ordering these figures, and would have installed them on bases made here. The origin of these figures in Italy helps explain why their uniforms are not always 100% accurately Canadian, though the carvers were usually careful to put a maple leaf where Canadian uniforms had this symbol (on the cap and collar). Few names of sculptors have come down to us, though the figures at Newdale and Dauphin are said to have been carved by a Signor Nicolai Rumbollo or Rombello (*Winnipeg Tribune*, 20 June 1924 on the Dauphin memorial; Directorate of History and Heritage on Newdale). Many of these Italian marbles are quite generic—they would probably have been selected from a catalogue or a generalized description, and often resemble each other quite closely. Two examples, from Dugald and Roblin, suggest the range.



Oak Bank/Dugald and Roblin (both Alan MacLeod, by permission)

These off-the-shelf Italian marbles vary greatly in sculptural quality, in expression, and in verisimilitude as Canadian soldiers. The young man in Dugald, (moved from Oak Bank), for instance, sports a puffy cap quite unlike those worn by Canadian soldiers. Comparing his uniform with several others also illustrates the extent to which these figures vary in attention to detail and in

quality. Compare the collar, epaulettes, and buttons of the Oak Bank figure with those worn by the helmeted figure at Roblin, where these details have real depth. The fabric of the Roblin tunic has been sculpted so as to look pliable, like a real garment over flesh and bone, where the Oak Bank figure looks too smooth—almost inflated. Look now at the faces of the two figures; notice the modeling of the cheekbones and chin, the expression in the eyes, and even the hair.

We don't know what the process was for ordering these figures, so we can't know whether a community could pay more for a statue by a more talented or experienced sculptor, or whether it was just luck. Many figures, however, resemble each other so closely in pattern that we might imagine they were ordered from a catalogue description. The figures at Newdale and Binscarth, for example, might have been described almost identically in a catalogue. It might run something like this: "Standing figure of a soldier looking forward, with rifle at his side. Available with either helmet or cap, in any national uniform as specified."



Memorial figures at Newdale and Binscarth (Historic Resources Branch; Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Such a description basically describes both figures, but they are very different as realized. Aside from details such as the fact that the Newdale soldier—who also

appears as an adult man—is combat-ready with webbing (personal load-carrying equipment) and a helmet, our young Binscarth soldier is stiff and expressionless, with far less depth about his uniform. Both figures stand at attention (the Newdale figure with his left leg slightly advanced), but the Newdale soldier is far more naturalistic than the static Binscarth figure, who looks as if he might be holding his breath. Each of these memorial figures is an equal expression of the loss experienced by its community, but such details mean that some speak to us more eloquently today.

It is instructive to look farther afield, to other countries that were purchasing Italian marble figures in memory of their dead. A look at a figure from New Zealand suggests that our hypothetical catalogue description might not be far off.



War Memorial figure from Miller's Flat, Otago, New Zealand, a town with a current population of about 200. Fifteen names are carved on the ornate supporting structure. With a different hat, this figure might well stand on a memorial in Manitoba. (Adrian Pratt)

He is nearly identical in pattern to our Newdale and Binscarth figures. A variant from Australia shows a slightly more swashbuckling fellow than we usually see on Canadian memorials, but the general type is unmistakable. Other Australian memorials show a more staid soldier at attention.



Bonny Doon, Australia: a marble figure of an Australian soldier of which similar versions appear in other towns. (Allan Russell)

In addition to the standard figures produced by quarries, Carrara sculptors would also work to designs that were sent to them. This resulted in a number of more individualized figures, including some to which we can attach the name of a local or Canadian sculptor. To help us understand how this process might have worked in the case of an individually-commissioned work, we can look at the Ontario sculptor Frances Loring and her memorial for the Law Society of Upper Canada, in Toronto. (Law Society website.)

Loring began by working on a clay model, which the committee then reviewed and, after suggesting a few modifications, approved before she made a full-sized plaster cast that would be used by the eventual marble carvers to create an exact copy with the help of calipers and precise measurements. The cast was shipped to Italy, and Loring herself went to Carrara after it to select the marble to be used

for the sculpture, and to supervise its carving. This is obviously a much more involved process, for a memorial done for an organization with deeper pockets than most Manitoba towns, but it does give us a notion of the general process by which a Canadian sculptor's work in a Canadian location might actually have been carved by Italians in Carrara.



Loring's figure for the Law Society of Upper Canada (Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Manitoba has several examples of marble figures designed by a local sculptor, as we shall see. It is not known at this time whether the Italian sculptors would have worked from a small plaster or clay model, from photographs of a model, or, as in the case of Loring's work, whether a full-sized plaster model would actually have been sent to Italy.

Challenges of Marble

Unfortunately, marble is not a particularly robust material for outdoor use. Though some marble figures are still in surprisingly good condition, others are badly worn. There must have been considerable variation in the quality of the marble available, even from the same quarry, as the state of these figures can vary greatly from location to location. Many have suffered badly over the years from weathering, vandalism, or both. More often than not, inscriptions have been done in harder stones, but in cases where they were done in marble, some have weathered to the point of illegibility.



Two Manitoba memorials showing differing, but severe, effects of weathering on marble. The figure on the right also appears to have been attacked by vandals. (both Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Other Stone Figures

Marble was the most common stone for war memorial figures, but limestone, sandstone and granite were also used. Limestone, a sedimentary rock of which marble is a metamorphic form, is softer than marble, while sandstone (also sedimentary, but mostly made up of tiny grains of the hard mineral quartz) is somewhat harder. The igneous rock granite is harder yet, making it difficult to carve but extremely durable. At the Russell memorial, Emanuel Hahn's Grieving Soldier figure (illustrated below under "Emanuel Hahn") is carved in granite. It was supplied by the Thomson Monument Company, where it (and several others that found homes across Canada) was carved to Hahn's design by company artisans. The figures of the Belgian Monument in Winnipeg (see below under "Hubert Garnier") are carved from andesite, a hard igneous rock from Haddington Island, BC.

Bronze Figures

Bronze is probably the most durable material for statuary, though its cost made its use quite rare. Most bronze figures were cast in Europe, but in 1920 the Canadian William A. Rogers Limited Company published a catalogue of memorial designs which, though it focussed largely on plaques, also featured several images of bronze figures. Of particular interest to Manitobans is the over-life-sized statue of a pensive infantryman, leaning on his rifle, with his chin resting on his hand. According to the catalogue, Rogers was at that time the only bronze foundry in Canada that had successfully made large casts like this, but even more interesting is that we recognize the figure as a cast from a model by a St. Boniface sculptor named Nicolas Piroton (see below for more information).

Perhaps not surprisingly, given its cost, the majority of Manitoba's bronze figural monuments are found in Winnipeg. These include the St. Boniface Memorial, the Next of Kin Memorial on the Legislative Grounds, the Canadian Pacific Railway Memorial, now at Deer Lodge, and the Bank of Montréal memorial at Portage and Main. Bronze figures elsewhere are the figure of a soldier in greatcoat in Neepawa, probably from Italy, and the figure of the "Herald of Peace" — an angel blowing a bugle — in the Memorial Room in Carmen's Memorial Hall. This figure was definitely cast in Canada, as it also appears in the Rogers catalogue of 1921.



"The Herald of Peace," in the Memorial Room of Carmen-Dufferin's Memorial Hall
(Historic Resources Branch)

Individual Sculptors and Designers

Eugène Benet

Creator of the figure topping the St. Boniface War Memorial (unveiled in 1920), Eugène Benet was a well-known sculptor in Paris. His design for the *Le Poilu Victorieux*, which we find on this monument to the fallen French of Western Canada, was widely marketed by the Durenne foundry in Paris. Indeed, it is believed that over 900 casts of this figure were made, making it the most common work of public art in France. The design is thought to have been based on a celebrated war poster showing a charging French soldier, one arm outstretched and a rifle in the other, shouting encouragement to his compatriots (Sherman, 189). On the sculpture, however, the rifle is moved to the left hand, while the upraised right hand waves a wreath of victory. It is a rare example of a French soldier on a Canadian war memorial, and may have been a gift to St. Boniface from the French government. The memorial at St. Claude—designed in Manitoba—also features a French soldier.



"We'll get 'em!" A French war recruitment poster.



War Memorial in Beaumesnil, France
(Codepem)



St. Boniface War Memorial
(Tamara Wally; André Levesque)

Benet was born in Dieppe in 1863, and studied at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. In addition to many widely-known examples of public art in France, he sculpted a figure of Jean Vauquelin (a French 18th-century naval hero) for Montréal (1930). Benet died in Paris in 1942.

James Earle Fraser

Born in Minnesota in 1876, and studying in Chicago and Paris, James Earle Fraser was a prominent American sculptor. His large oeuvre of figurative sculptures includes many well-known commemorative sculptures and memorials. When the Bank of Montréal announced an international competition to choose a sculptor to create a memorial to its 230 fallen employees, Fraser submitted two designs. Both were chosen: a soldier in bronze (wearing American uniform), unveiled in 1923, stands guard in front of the Winnipeg bank branch at Portage and Main, and a white marble allegorical figure of Victory, carrying a sword sheathed in palm fronds, stands in the main branch in Montréal. Fraser died in 1953.



Bank of Montréal monument in Winnipeg (BMO Archives, 1928)



Fraser's figure of Victory in the banking hall in the Bank of Montréal head office. (BMO Corporate Archives 08-04-2008)

Hubert Garnier

Sculptor of the figures for the Belgian War Memorial, Hubert Garnier was born in 1903 in Chasseneuil, France, and settled in St. Boniface with his parents about ten years later. He studied art in Winnipeg, Chicago and Vancouver, became an adept carver, and apprenticed with artists in Paris, New York and Chicago before returning home. He died in Winnipeg in 1987 after a productive career.



Exterior Stonework by Garnier at the Hotel Vancouver, opened 1939 (Harry Palmer Photographs [cropped])

Garnier carried out carvings at New York's Rockefeller Centre, Vancouver's Lion's Gate Bridge and Hotel Vancouver, and elsewhere. Manitoba projects include carvings at the Winnipeg Hudson's Bay store, the Winnipeg Auditorium (now Archives) and Federal Buildings, and the Tier Building at the University of Manitoba, as well as the bronze doors at Shaarey Zedek synagogue, among many others (for a complete list, see "Boulevard Provencher").



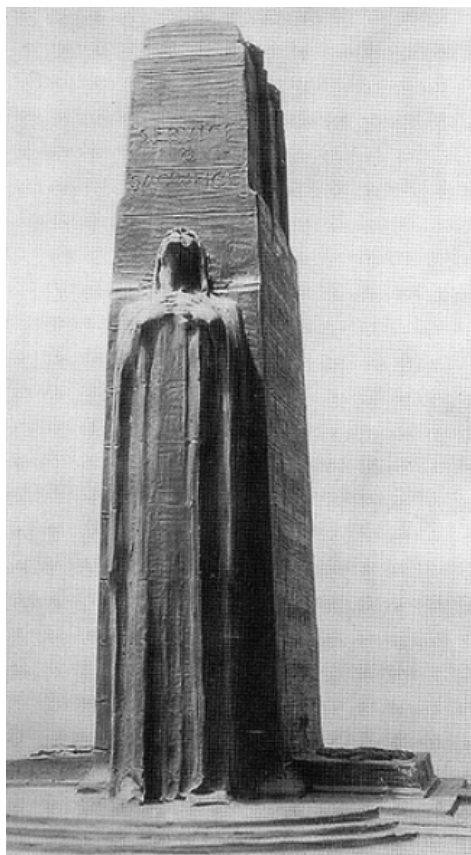
Hubert Garnier at work on the Belgian War Memorial, 1938. (Provincial Archives of Manitoba, N17244)



The unveiling of Garnier's Belgian Monument in October 1938. (supplied by Evelyn Baltessen.)

Emanuel Hahn

Born in Reutlingen, Germany in 1881, Emanuel Hahn moved with his family to Canada at age seven. He studied art and design in Ontario and Stuttgart, and went on to a distinguished career as a sculptor, starting with Toronto's McIntosh Marble and Granite Company in 1901. He created many works of public art, amongst which some particularly widely-recognized examples are his 1937 designs for the Bluenose on the Canadian dime and the Wapiti on the quarter.



Plaster model of Hahn's winning, but rejected, design for the Cenotaph in Winnipeg

From 1908-12, Hahn worked as an assistant to Walter S. Allward, who would later create Canada's war memorial at Vimy Ridge. In 1906, he also began working on contract with the Thomson Monument Company, a 40-year professional relationship which saw him become chief designer. Many of Thomson's advertisements feature his designs, but they rarely promoted him by name after the war lest his German roots lose them business. Their fear was not unfounded: in 1925 Hahn's design beat out 47 others to unanimously win the competition to design Winnipeg's cenotaph, but his German birth caused an uproar and he ultimately lost the commission.



Hahn and his bronze 'Tommy in his Greatcoat' (1923), used for several memorials.
(Baker)

Despite this handicap, Hahn's five distinct soldier figures appear on war memorials in at least 19 communities across the country. Manitoba has an example of his "Grieving Soldier" in Russell. The actual carving was done in granite by company stone carvers following Kahn's original bronze, which stands in Westville, Nova Scotia. This design was his most popular, and other companies borrowed heavily from, or even nearly copied it, for their own business. Manitoba has an example of this in Killarney. Carved of marble in Italy, Killarney's figure was supplied by Hooper Marble and Granite, of Winnipeg. Hahn died in Toronto in 1957.



Manitoba's version of Hahn's Grieving Soldier, in Russell. (Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Coeur de Lion MacCarthy

Coeur de Lion MacCarthy (1881-1979) was the son of Hamilton MacCarthy, a sculptor responsible for a range of war memorials, especially for the Boer War. The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) commissioned the younger MacCarthy to create a bronze memorial to the 1,125 CPR employees killed in the war. Three were cast: for Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver. Winnipeg's was unveiled in 1922.

MacCarthy also created war memorial figures in bronze for Lethbridge, Alberta, Trois-Rivières and Verdun, Québec, and Niagara Falls, Ontario.



Winnipeg's CPR Monument, 1922 (Historic Resources Branch)



MacCarthy's Grieving Soldier in Lethbridge, Alberta (Alan MacLeod, by permission)

As Alan MacLeod has observed, MacCarthy's war memorial figures exhibit an emotional range probably unmatched among Canada's war memorial sculptors, from the CPR's graceful angel bearing a peaceful fallen soldier to heaven, through Lethbridge's mourning soldier resting on arms reversed, to the determined infantryman in Trois-Rivières, apparently about to plunge his bayonet into the viewer below.



Monument des Braves, Trois-Rivières, Québec. (Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Nicolas Pirotton

Nicolas Pirotton was born in Liège, Belgium in 1882, and immigrated to St. Boniface in 1907. Here he pursued his métier as a stone carver. In 1917 he founded his own studio, specializing in commemorative and funerary monuments, on the Rue Dubuc; in the late 1920s he was advertising “Marble and Granite Monuments.” Pirotton was active in the community, founding the Belgian Relief Fund and being an amateur actor and cornet player, among other accomplishments (“Nicolas Pirotton”). He served St. Boniface as alderman from 1930 until his death in 1943.



Nicolas Pirotton

Pirotton was responsible for a number of war memorials in both Anglo and Francophone communities. The figure in Morden and the face in the arch in St. Andrew’s have also been attributed to him, probably incorrectly (Shipley, 133). Pirotton was for a time foreman and plant superintendant with the Western Stone Company (*Winnipeg Tribune* 22 November 1943, p. 11), which is credited with manufacturing the Morden monument. However, that monument dates from 1921, and Pirotton had left the firm four years before. Also, the Morden figure is stylistically very different from Pirotton’s more sophisticated pensive soldier figure, which must have been designed slightly earlier, and which was used on monuments in St. Claude, St. Pierre-Jolys, Emerson and MacGregor, and in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. We know that the Weyburn figure was carved in Italy (*Winnipeg Tribune* 27 May 1924, p. 12), and it is likely that the others were also. The figure also appears, in bronze, in the 1920 catalogue of the foundry

department of Canadian William A. Rogers Limited, and in bronze it was used for a memorial in Ganonoque, Ontario.



Pirotton's pensive soldier in McGregor (Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Another figure, of a soldier holding a rifle in his left hand and a grenade in his right, appears in bronze in Brockville (1924). It is said to have been modelled as a portrait of Major Thain Wendell MacDowell, a local man who had been awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Vimy Ridge (Brockville Museum). The figure was cast by the Allis Chalmers Company of Toronto. The town of Meaford, Ontario appears to have another cast of the same figure. Orangeville, Ontario has a very similar figure, but with the rifle resting on the shoulder. This may be Pirotton's work, or that of an imitator. Like McCarthy's soldier in Trois-Rivières, these figures are quite unusual among Canadian memorials in depicting a soldier in the very moment of combat.



Brockville War Memorial (Brockville Museum) and a detail of the figure (Alan MacLeod, by permission)

It is tempting to think that Piroton's design was influenced by Benet's dynamic "Poilu Victorieux" figure for St. Boniface, on which Piroton had done the final preparations before it was mounted on its pedestal several years earlier (*Winnipeg Tribune*, September 14, 1920, p. 1). The energetic posture of the Brockville figure is quite a departure from Piroton's earlier pensive soldier, and even the position of the body, with a rifle in his left hand and his right hand raised (in this case to throw a grenade rather than to wave a wreath of victory) is similar.

Marguerite Taylor

Born Marguerite Jud in Paris in 1886, Mrs. Hilliard Taylor (as she usually called herself professionally) learned her art in the Paris studio of Antoine Bourdelle, who was in turn a pupil of the great French sculptor Auguste Rodin. She met her husband, Hilliard Taylor, in Paris, and came with him to Winnipeg in the early years of the 20th century, where she maintained a studio. Among her many works is her bust of Chief Peguis in Winnipeg's Kildonan Park. Taylor's own favourite sculpture was her 1927 statue of Canada personified as a woman, on the war memorial in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. She received the commission after winning a national competition.



War Memorial figure in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, unveiled 1927 (Faster than Light Communications)

Probably her most familiar work is her figure for the Next-of-Kin Monument on the Legislative Grounds in Winnipeg, from 1922. She sculpted the figure in London, England (as she did with all of her large works), using as her model a soldier who was a veteran of the horrors of Passchendaele. Nonetheless, the figure is a rare example of a joyous figure on a war memorial, because she chose to depict the moment when peace was declared, noting that she "wanted to do a happy soldier so the bereaved wives and mothers would not be too much saddened when they looked at it." Marguerite Taylor died in Winnipeg in 1964.



Marguerite Taylor with the plaster cast of her soldier figure for the Next of Kin monument. As with most of her large works, she sculpted it and had it cast in bronze in London, England (*Winnipeg Free Press*, 13 April 1963, p.17).

Gilbert Parfitt

Gilbert C. Parfitt was born in England in 1887. Having studied architecture there, he immigrated to Winnipeg in 1912, where he became Provincial Architect in 1923. In addition to the cenotaphs in Stonewall (1922) and Winnipeg (1928), he is known for his work on a wide range of buildings, including the Tier and Buller Buildings at the University of Manitoba, the Cathedral Church of St. John in Winnipeg, and several consolidated schools. He died in Vancouver in 1966.



The Stonewall Cenotaph (Historic Resources Branch)

Monument Firms

Three firms dominated the war memorial business in Canada in the postwar period: Thomson Monument Company, McIntosh Granite Company, and Canadian William A. Rogers Limited (later Frank G. Tickell). All were located in Toronto, produced catalogues, and marketed their wares more or less aggressively to towns and institutions across the country. Smaller firms with a more local clientele also did memorial work, and some had connections to foundries or quarries in Europe. Among others, Guinn and Simpson of Portage la Prairie and Hooper Marble and Granite of Winnipeg did work for memorials in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Thomson Monument Company

The Thomson Monument Company regularly published advertisements in the interwar period, inviting communities or institutions to order war memorials from them. The one below, which appeared in *Saturday Night* in 1922, depicts a design model by their chief designer Emanuel Hahn (see above) for a memorial that was eventually used in Moncton, New Brunswick and Lindsay, Ontario.



This advertisement from the Thomson Monument company makes no mention of their German-born chief designer.

Canadian William A. Rogers Limited Foundry Department/
Frank G. Tickell

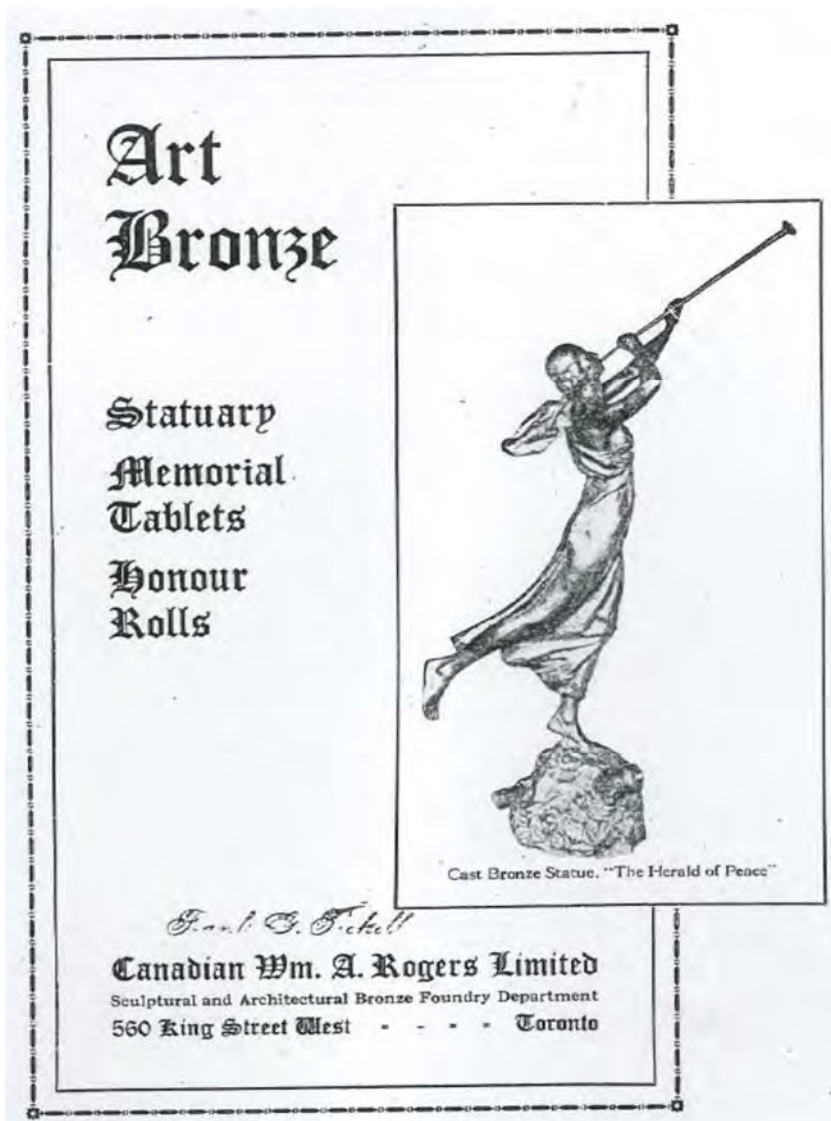
The William A. Rogers Company foundry was taken over in the early 1920s by a former employee, Frank Tickell. A catalogue from December 1920 illustrates “Memorial Tablets and Honour Rolls that other Townships, Schools, Churches, etc., have erected” and offers to prepare sketches of any design, without obligation. This catalogue also illustrates a bronze casting of Piroton’s pensive soldier, calling its production a “Splendid Canadian Achievement.”



A page from a 1920 catalogue indicating that nowhere else could a community acquire a large-scale bronze cast in Canada such as this one designed by Nicolas Piroton. (Library and Archives Canada RG24, Volume 4262, File Part 1)

The presence of an advertisement in the *Free Press* in 1919 indicates that the Rogers Foundry was actively seeking contracts outside of central Ontario. It may well be that many of the numerous plaques and tablets found in churches,

schools and other institutions through Manitoba were obtained from them. We know that the elegant bronze figure in the Memorial Room in Carman's Memorial Hall came from there, as it is illustrated in the catalogue as "The Herald of Peace." Like the much-larger Pirotton figure, it is described as having been made entirely in the Rogers foundry "from models supplied us by the sculptors," though in this case we do not know who the sculptor was.



Catalogue illustration of a bronze angel figure like that in the Carman Memorial Hall (Library and Archives Canada, RG24, Volume 4262, File Part 1)

McIntosh Granite Company

The McIntosh Granite Company briefly employed Emanuel Hahn as a designer in the early 20th century. It was responsible for constructing a range of memorials, mostly in Ontario, including those in St. Catherine's, Ayr, North Bay and Brockville. McIntosh may well have supplied memorials to Manitoba towns, but as yet we do not know.



North Bay, Ontario monument, 1922. The figure is by C.D. MacKenzie of Toronto, and was said to have been the largest bronze ever cast in Canada at that time. (Francoise Noel)

Manitoba Firms

Further research would no doubt turn up other firms and individuals involved in war memorial work across the province. For instance, the Memorial and Tile Company of Winnipeg constructed Transcona's obelisk of British Columbia granite, unveiled in 1931. The Sutherland Company, of Brandon, provided the Italian-carved figure and other components of Boissevain's memorial, unveiled in 1924. In the *Winnipeg Tribune* of April 21, 1926, we see that William Tucker, "local stonemason and builder of the Tyndall Great War Memorial" had "several large orders. . . and more to come" for monumental work.

Samuel Hooper

Samuel Hooper, born in England in 1851 and immigrating to Canada in 1869, was an architect and sculptor. His extensive experience in stonework encouraged him to buy into the monument firm of David Ede, whom he eventually bought out to form Hooper Marble Works. Although he became primarily an architect, being appointed Manitoba's first Provincial Architect in 1904, Hooper Marble and Granite continued to supply monuments. Despite Hooper's death in 1911, the firm continued to operate; in the early 1920s, it was advertising regularly in the newspaper, with a factory in St. Boniface and a showroom at Portage and Spence, in Winnipeg. Hooper was contracted to put up a handsome obelisk in Humboldt, Saskatchewan in 1920.

Guinn and Simpson

Guinn and Simpson, of Portage la Prairie, is still operating as a memorial maker. This firm was contracted to construct memorials in Manitoba, including the grand example in Dauphin, and Saskatchewan.

The company began as the Neepawa Marble and Granite Works in 1905, when the Guinn brothers announced that they could provide "Scotch and American Granite, Italian and American Marble" as well as expert workmen and the "latest designs to choose from." By 1912 they had bought out a monument company in Portage la Prairie, and joined with the undertaker, Jack Simpson, to form Guinn & Simpson, with headquarters in Portage.

In about 1925, brothers Ed and William split the business: Ed continued with Guinn & Simpson in Portage, and William took on the Neepawa operation, using the name Neepawa Stone & Marble Works.

GUIDE TO MANITOBA MEMORIAL TYPES



GUIDE TO MANITOBA MEMORIAL TYPES

The memorials honouring Manitoba's dead of World War I are a profound historical legacy. They are also a major artistic achievement.

This section of the study of Manitoba war memorials explores the most common types of memorials with an eye to formal considerations – design, aesthetics, materials, and craftsmanship. For those who look to these objects primarily as places of memory and remembrance, this additional perspective can bring a completely different level of understanding and appreciation, and even delight.

Six major groupings of war memorial types have been identified in Manitoba:

- **Tablets**
- **Cairns**
- **Obelisks**
- **Cenotaphs**
- **Statues**
- **Architectural Monuments**

Each of these is reviewed in the following entries, with a handful of typical or exceptional Manitoba examples used to illuminate the key design and material issues and attributes that attend the type.

Tablets

The apparently simple and elemental form of the tablet, also known as a stele (from the ancient Greek, with stelae as the plural), is the most common form of gravesite memorial. Given its popularity and cultural and historical resonance, its use for war memorials is understandable. The tablet is economical—in form and often in cost—but also elegant. And while the simple planar face is capable of conveying a great deal of inscribed information, the very form itself can be seen as a highly abstracted version of the human body – and thus often has a mysterious attractive quality. In addition, the tablet is a particularly apt form to remind us of the war memorial’s function as a gravestone *in absentia*.

The tablet or stele has a very long history. Even the earliest stelae featured texts and often had decoration, which may have been inscribed, carved in relief, or painted onto the slab. The examples noted below suggest the origins of the tablets used for World War I memorials, and remind us of the endurance of this form.



An ancient (New Kingdom) Egyptian stele in the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon suggests the kind of rich and intricate detail that could be organized for dramatic graphic communication, and reminds us of how long this basic shape has been in use for monuments.

Manitoba cemeteries of course are full of tablet grave markers, with a stone in St. John's Anglican Cathedral Cemetery in Winnipeg suggestive of the potential of its visual appeal, especially when carried out in marble. Marble provides a sculpting surface very amenable to carving, allowing for strong and subtle effects through fine details and shadows.



An amazingly detailed grave marker in St. John's Anglican Cathedral Cemetery, Winnipeg, which contains a variety of military motifs that suggest how memorials of the late 19th century treated martial themes. (Historic Resources Branch)

In Manitoba, about 25 communities selected the tablet as the form for their war memorial. The examples noted here suggest the varieties of type. Visitors examining this type of memorial should consider how designers and craftsmen undertook graphic flourishes – on the main face but also around the edges. Also of interest is the way the names of the dead are placed and presented.



(Patrick Morican)

Strathclair

One of the most striking tablet-type memorials in Manitoba is at Strathclair, with its pointed Gothic top and inscriptions directly on the granite surface. The roughened outline of the monument and the delicate carving of the wreath and ribbons on the main face make this an especially fine specimen. The memorial was dedicated in 1925. It features 28 names from World War I, with an addition to provide for the names of 14 dead from World War II and one member of NATO Forces.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Oakville

A simple tablet form for the Oakville memorial is given a modest sense of grandeur with the pedimented top and elevation on two large stone blocks that form a pedestal. The bronze plaque affixed to the face contains the inscription, "To The Glorious Memory of The Men From This Community Who Gave Their Lives in the Cause of Freedom." Those men include 11 from World War I and 16 from World War II.



(Patrick Morican)

Sagkeeng First Nation/Fort Alexander

The placement of a cross atop a polished black granite tablet gives the Sagkeeng First Nation memorial a solemn sensibility. This handsome monument contains the names of two men lost in World War I, 20 lost in World War II and two from the Korean conflict of 1950-53.



(Patrick Morican)
Camperville

The more recent tablet memorial at Camperville suggests the kind of highly-animated imagery possible with contemporary stone-etching technologies.



(Patrick Morican)
Gilbert Plains

This exquisite tablet memorial contains some of the finest stone carving on a Manitoba cenotaph. Spear and drapery motifs flank the main body of the monument, which is tall, and grandly dedicated to “the glorious memory of our boys who gave their lives for the greater cause.” The base of the memorial contains 32 names of the lost from the First World War, and a bronze plaque adds 23 from World War II. Battle sites are also noted: Ypres, The Somme, Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, Cambrai and Mons.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Winnipeg: St. Augustine United Church

The heavily-carved limestone tablet in front of St. Augustine United Church is a beautiful expression of design and craftsmanship. The elegant form is enlivened with a wealth of detail expertly cut from the stone. The main epitaph reads "To the Glory of God and in Sacred Memory of Those of This Church Who Laid Down their Lives in the World War" followed by 40 names inscribed for posterity.

Find the Memorial

Tablet/Stele memorials in Manitoba can be found in the following communities. Each entry includes a link to the Manitoba Historical Society page which includes an image and exact locational details for each memorial, and, where available, information on the soldiers identified on it.

Arborg

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/arborgveterans.shtml>

Beausejour

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Benito

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/benitowarmemorial.shtml>

Birch River

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/birchriverwarmemorial.shtml>

Boissevain

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/boissevainwarmemorial.shtml>

Camperville

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Deloraine

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Edrans

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/edranscemetery.shtml>

Elgin

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/elginwarmemorial.shtml>

Sagkeeng First Nation/Fort Alexander

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/sagkeengwarmemorial.shtml>

Mafeking

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/mafekingwarmemorial.shtml>

McCreary

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/mccrearywarmemorial.shtml>

Melita

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/melitawarmemorial.shtml>

Oakville

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/oakvillewarmemorial.shtml>

Plumas

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/plumaswarmemorial.shtml>

Rorketon

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/lawrencewarmemorial.shtml>

Roseau River First Nation

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/roseauriverwarmemorial.shtml>

Sandy Lake

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/sandylakewarmemorial.shtml>

Souris

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/souriswarmemorial.shtml>

St. Adolphe

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/ritchotwarmemorial.shtml>

St. Laurent

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/stlaurentwarmemorial.shtml>

Ste Rose du Lac

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/sterosedulacwarmemorial.shtml>

Steinbach

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Strathclair

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/strathclairwarmemorial.shtml>

Winnipeg

East Kildonan

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Elmwood

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Fort Garry

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Kildonan Park

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Monte Cassino

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Shaarey Zedek

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

St. James

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

St. James

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

St. Augustine Church

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

St. Johns Park

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

University of Manitoba

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Rivercrest

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Cairns

Many of the traditional monument forms used in Manitoba war memorials have as a vague originating reference the upright human body – as a tablet, an obelisk and obviously as a sculpted figure. Not quite so the cairn. This form has some complex cultural roots, harkening back to Neolithic burial sites and even to the majestic pyramids of Egypt, where the four sloped faces rising to a peak can be seen in miniature in so many cairn sites.

The word cairn comes from the Scottish Gaelic, càrn (plural càirn). The Gaelic càrn is essentially the same as the corresponding words in other native Celtic languages of Britain and Ireland, including the Welsh carnedd, the Irish carn, and the Cornish karn.

There are legends and folklore throughout the United Kingdom associated with cairns. In Scotland, it is traditional to carry a stone up from the bottom of a hill to place on a cairn at its top. In such a fashion, cairns would grow ever larger. An old Scottish Gaelic blessing is *Cuiridh mi clach air do chàrn*, "I'll put a stone on your cairn." In Highland folklore it is believed that before a battle each member of a Highland Clan would place a stone in a pile. Those who survived the battle returned and removed a stone from the pile. The stones that remained were built into a cairn to honour the dead.

Finally, we can all imagine an elemental grave site where stones are piled over a burial to mark the place and fend off questing predators.

It is these connections that give the cairn its simple and evocative power. At the same time, because the typical cairn is made up of a pile of stones, even where they are finely cut and fitted, (and thus not like the other common memorial types, which are of a single piece), it is suggestive of work and toil and even of reasoning – making such a pile stand and endure requires some knowledge of the physical properties of piled objects. Cairns suggest the possibility that they were built by local people, not installed by professionals. Even where it is a simple continuous form, covered for example in a concrete skim, the essential shape is still powerful.

About 30 Manitoba communities looked to the cairn as the basic form for their war memorials, and the variety of expressions possible with this supposedly simple form is impressive to see.

Visitors happening upon this type of memorial will find greater satisfaction in a review of design and craftsmanship if they look at the way the materials have been put together, and how names and thoughts are affixed.



This traditional Scottish cairn at Cairn Table near Muirkirk is a First World War Memorial built from stones taken from a nearby ancient cairn. (Neil Stewart)



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Balmoral

A grouping of three cairns at Balmoral Elementary School suggest the variety of expressions possible for the form – nearly as a block (left), with the traditional sloped sides (centre) and then as a low truncated form (right). All three are carried out with granite fieldstone construction and feature bronze plaques to contain the necessary text information: the loss of six local men from 1914-1918 and 11 from 1939-1945; the third monument is dedicated to local pioneers.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Clearwater

The Clearwater memorial is a textbook example of the cairn – tall, sloped sides and with a strong, rough surface composed of large granite stones. The inset plaques at the front note losses from the two World Wars and peacekeeping in Afghanistan, along with the stirring epitaph: “Their Mission Accomplished. Ours but Begun.”



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Grandview

The Grandview cairn is distinguished by the use of small rounded stones that give the memorial a highly tactile quality. This cairn replaced a marble tablet (still standing) which was put up by the Girls' Guild of Grandview "To our Soldier Heroes" after the First World War. The 26 names on that tablet—much-weathered—were cast in bronze after World War II along with those of the 23 men lost in that war.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Winnipegosis

The tall proportions and small capped element, as well as the carefully-faced granite stones used for the Winnipegosis war memorial, give this cairn an ancient quality.



(Patrick Morican)
Sperling

The Sperling cairn features carefully cut and placed stones, inset with white mortar that makes the composition even stronger, and more striking.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Baldur

At Baldur, the traditional cairn shape is given a delicate quality by the use of a concrete sheathing skim, and its positioning in a setting with flowering shrubs and plants. Two columns of names on the bronze plates include 26 from the First World War (including a nurse) and 15 from World War II. Three more names have subsequently been added to the list of the dead from World War I.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Rapid City

Featuring a cross, in this case juxtaposed with a sword (recalling the original Cross of Sacrifice used by the Imperial War Graves Commission), the Rapid City cairn was constructed by Mr. Harry Fulcher, and unveiled in 1929. The four steps leading up to it on all four sides confer an almost monumental quality. This memorial features inset tablets with 38 names of local men lost in the First World War and 21 lost in World War II.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Douglas

The Douglas cairn is one of the few memorials that feature a weapon – in this case a machine gun. The rough granite cobbles give the monument a striking texture. Inset panels on all four sides feature the names of 13 local men lost in World War I, and also several verses, which are unusual and contrasting choices. The full texts may be read in the Original Inventory or Learning Materials.

One verse is a modified version of a speech about the Wars of the Roses, from Nicholas Rowe's early-18th century play *Jane Shore*. Another, a poem by Canon Scott, printed in the *Carp, Ontario Review* in 1921, addresses a common source of debate around war memorials: should they honour only the dead, or all who served? The verse begins "Bestow not on the dead your praise/ They heed it not above" and goes on to insist that a debt of honour is owed to the wounded, not just to those who died.

Find the Memorial

Cairn memorials in Manitoba can be found in the following communities. Each entry includes a link to the Manitoba Historical Society page which includes an image and exact locational details for each memorial, and, where available, information on the soldiers identified on it.

Amaranth

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/amaranthunited.shtml>

Ashern

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/ashernpioneers.shtml>

Balmoral

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/balmoralcairns.shtml>

Bowsman

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/bowsmanwarmemorial.shtml>

Brandon

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/brandonwarmemorial.shtml>

Douglas

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/douglaswarmemorial.shtml>

Erikson

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/ericksonwarmemorial.shtml>

Grandview

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/grandviewwarmemorial.shtml>

Gimli

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/gimliwarmemorial.shtml>

Lundar

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Pine Falls

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Minto

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/mintowarmemorial.shtml>

Moosehorn

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Oak River

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/oakriverwarmemorial.shtml>

Portage la Prairie

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/portagewarmemorial.shtml>

Rapid City

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/rapidcitywarmemorial.shtml>

Shilo

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/shilosundial.shtml>

Sanford

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/sanfordwarmemorial.shtml>

San Clara

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/sanclarawarmemorial.shtml>

Snowflake

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/snowflakecairn.shtml>

Sperling

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/sperlingwarmemorial.shtml>

St. Anne

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/steannewarmemorial.shtml>

Swan Lake

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Swan River

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/swanriverwarmemorial.shtml>

Waskada

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/waskadawarmemorial.shtml>

Winnipeg Beach

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/winnipegbeachwarmemorial.shtml>

Winnipegosis

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/winnipegosiswarmemorial.shtml>

Woodlands

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/woodlandswarmemorial.shtml>

Winnipeg

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/winnipegcenotaph.shtml>

Brooklands

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Fort Rouge Legion

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Weston Legion

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Obelisks

Elegant and sophisticated, the obelisk is a trusted memorial form. Its common appearance in Victorian-era cemeteries made it familiar as a symbol denoting a resting place for the dead. Its use by 26 Manitoba communities for war memorials, obviously intended as very special community landmarks, speaks to its enduring power.

The obelisk's reliable presence, so comfortable beside Christian crosses and tablet stones, belies its exotic origins. Representing a ray of light, the obelisk has its roots in ancient Egypt, around 2650 BC. These objects were originally called *tekhenû* by their builders. The Greeks who saw them used the Greek word *obeliskos* to describe them, and this word passed into Latin and then English. In technical terms, an obelisk is a tall, four-sided, narrow tapering monument which ends in a pyramid-like shape at the top. Ancient obelisks were often monolithic and enormous, whereas most modern obelisks are quite small in comparison. Manitoba's collection includes several examples that are not quite true obelisks, but rather creative modifications of the form.

Public interest in the obelisk grew rapidly in the early 19th century when Napoleon brought two back to Paris as war booty from Luxor, Egypt. One, set up in the Place de la Concorde, was of red granite, measured 23 metres (75 feet) in height and weighed more than 250 tonnes. As an exotic object of considerable mystery and powerful form, the obelisk was a hit. Its appearance in cemeteries in Great Britain required some fancy footwork, however, particularly in appeasing religious leaders of the 19th century, who were suspicious of foreign and non-Christian forms. The solution, in many cases, was the application of various Christian symbols to make this ancient, pagan form more at home in this new context.

Interested visitors examining one of Manitoba's fine collection of obelisk war memorials should take some time to consider key design attributes: Is it a classic of the type – tall and slender? Or did designers rework the basic form for other aesthetic goals? How did the designers and builders conceive of the obelisk's transition to the ground? This is often where some interesting and distinct design solutions can be discerned. What material was used? The classic is perhaps shimmering white marble; but materials like Manitoba limestone and polished granite also appear. And then consider how the names of the lost have been

included – carved into the stone itself on the shaft or on the base? Or situated on a plaque affixed to the memorial?



The Obelisk of Theodosius in the Hippodrome of Constantinople in Istanbul, Turkey. This Ancient Egyptian obelisk was created for Pharaoh Tutmoses III and was re-erected in Constantinople by the Roman emperor Theodosius I in the 4th century AD. (Gryffindor)

Step back and look at the memorial in its setting. Recall its ancient origins, and its contemporary meanings. It marks a spot, a special spot, and does so with quiet dignity. But consider too its original meaning – as a ray of light, which appears to emanate from below. Symbolically, this give the form the enduring power to convey hope and mystery.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Dropmore

This is a textbook example of the type: tall and slender, bright white and with dark lettering that contrasts with the material. A little detail at the base of the obelisk defines its clear Canadian heritage – a beaver chewing on a sapling.

The inscription begins, “For King and Country, 1914-1918” and then lists the 10 names of local men lost in the war. Unusually, with each name is listed not only the man’s rank and regiment, but also the date and battle site of his death.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Argyle

A handsome piece of sculptural design and craftsmanship, this memorial reworks the classic obelisk form with some martial imagery in the form of the crossed rifles towards the apex. Near the base is a large palm frond, which has long been symbolic of victory, of peace following victory, and—in Christian symbolism—of the spiritual victory of martyrs even in death.

The inscription reads “In Memory of our Honoured Dead” and then lists 15 names of the lost from the First World War. Three names of the dead from World War II have been added on the opposite side.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Birds Hill

The elegant and evocative memorial at Birds Hill combines the classic obelisk shape with a variety of finely-crafted details, like the curved pediments topping the tall base, and the carved wreath on the front surface. The monument is of local limestone, and weathering has made the carved names difficult to read. Two plaques, perhaps both put in place after World War II, supply that necessary information – 17 names from World War I and six from 1939-45.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Franklin

Even when it is small—and the Franklin obelisk is that—a memorial is an affecting reminder of sacrifice and loss. The diminutive size even seems to emphasize the sense of loss for this small community – five names inscribed for the First World War and two for World War II.

This obelisk stands in front of Franklin Memorial Hall, which is, itself, a war memorial.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Rathwell

Rathwell has a classic polished red granite obelisk, typical of so many others in its shape and appointments. It is mounted on two rough-edged limestone steps, with the base of the monument curved to form a transition step to the plinth. This rises to a kind of cornice, which becomes the base of the obelisk itself. The overall effect is dramatic, made more so by the unusual use of red granite. The polished letters stand out against the lighter colour of the rough areas of stone.

With local fund-raising, the monument was inscribed and dedicated in 1921 to commemorate the fallen of the First World War. The Second World War dead were subsequently added. Part of the inscription reads: "They Nobly Did Their Duty."



(Patrick Morican)
Garson

The Garson memorial combines a stout obelisk with tapered support blocks that make for an unusual design and presence. The monument is made from Manitoba limestone, also called Tyndall stone.

The front has seven names and an inscription from Lawrence Binyon's 1914 poem "For the Fallen." One stanza is familiar in Canada as the Act of Remembrance. Here, only the final lines are used (with a change from the original "will" to "shall"): "At the Going Down of the Sun and in the Morning we Shall Remember Them." On the side, probably added later, are the 5 names of the fallen of World War II: "They Dared to Die that We Might Live."

Find the Memorial

Obelisk memorials in Manitoba can be found in the following communities. Each entry includes a link to the Manitoba Historical Society page which includes an image and exact locational details for each memorial, and, where available, information on the soldiers identified it.

Altona

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/alonawarmemorial.shtml>

Argyle

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/brantargylecemetery.shtml>

Birds Hill

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/birdshillwarmemorial.shtml>

Birtle

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/birtlewarmemorial.shtml>

Cartwright

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/cartwrightwarmemorial.shtml>

Clanwilliam

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/clanwilliamwarmemorial.shtml>

Crystal City

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/crystalcitywarmemorial.shtml>

Dropmore

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/dropmorewarmemorial.shtml>

Elkhorn

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/elkhornwarmemorial.shtml>

Elm Creek

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/elmcreekwarmemorial.shtml>

Franklin

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/franklinmemorialhall.shtml>

Garson

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/garsonwarmemorial.shtml>

Gilbert Plains

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/gilbertplainswarmemorial.shtml>

Glenboro

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/glenborowarmemorial.shtml>

Griswold

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/griswoldwarmemorial.shtml>

Langruth

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Miami

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/miamiwarmemorial.shtml>

Minitonas

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/minitonaswarmemorial.shtml>

Morden

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/mordenwarmemorial.shtml>

Morris

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/morriswarmemorial.shtml>

Ninette

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/ninettewarmemorial.shtml>

Pilot Mound

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/pilotmoundwarmemorial.shtml>

Rathwell

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/rathwellwarmemorial.shtml>

Shellmouth

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/shellmouthwarmemorial.shtml>

Steinbach

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Teulon

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/teulonwarmemorial.shtml>

Treesbank

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/treesbankcairns.shtml>

Tyndall

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/tyndallwarmemorial.shtml>

Wawanesa

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/wawanesawarmemorial.shtml>

Westbourne

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/westbournewarmemorial.shtml>

Winnipeg

St. James Bruce Park

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/stjamescenotaph.shtml>

Transcona Park Circle

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/parkcirclecenotaph.shtml>

Cenotaphs

Meaning “empty tomb,” a cenotaph is by definition a monument to individuals buried elsewhere; often, but by no means always, it will include a list of names. Technically, then, nearly all of Manitoba’s war memorials are cenotaphs.

But the term can be more specifically used for a very distinctive memorial design, which looks to an original in London. It is tall, solid, and stately. Even when it is not large, a cenotaph has a feeling of grandeur. It is an architectural form unto itself.

The form originally appeared as a temporary monument of wood and plaster, designed by Sir Edward Lutyens (and apparently taking just six hours to complete), which was a focus of the Allied Victory Parade in London at the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The memorial proved so popular that it was quickly rendered in stone. This original cenotaph is a design *tour-de-force*, simple in its basic form but with careful proportions and details that give it amazing power and dignity. It is undecorated save for a carved wreath and the words “The Glorious Dead,” as well as three cloth flags on either side. At the pinnacle there is the form of a tomb or casket.

Lutyens was a major English architect, and well known in this context for his work on one of the primary war memorials to the Missing of Europe’s battlefields, at Thiepval in Belgium, and for the Imperial War Graves Commission. His design was used by the Commission for the Stone of Remembrance, which was used particularly for large war cemeteries, and of which the only example in North America is at Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg.

In Manitoba, our collection of ten community cenotaphs follows the Lutyens model more or less closely, whether the memorial is small or large. They are tall (or at least appear tall) and grand, with four broad sides that contain names and dates and a variety of other texts.

Visitors contemplating one of Manitoba’s cenotaphs should consider the range of overall design explorations and detail flourishes that are often carried out with refinement and care.



Sir Edwin Lutyens's cenotaph in London influenced the design of many other war memorials in Britain and the British sectors of the Western Front, as well as those in other Commonwealth nations. (Godot13)



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Flin Flon

The Flin Flon Cenotaph, unveiled in 1959, is one of Manitoba's finest examples of this kind of memorial, a grand presence overlooking the community from one of the city's high points. 87 names appear on the bronze plaque. With its powerful verticality, simple but elegant form, expert stonework, and beautifully carved details, the memorial is a sculptural highlight of the North.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Stonewall

Designed by a prominent Winnipeg architect, Gilbert Parfitt, the Stonewall Cenotaph was unveiled on October 7, 1922. Bearing the names of 102 of the lost from the First World War, with 73 from World War II added later, this exquisite tower of Manitoba limestone is a triumph of design. The tall form, the elegant proportions, the carefully-considered edge features, and of course the many details, including lions-head fountains and receiving urns, define a memorial that is at once beautiful and respectful. Parfitt used lions again—this time in bronze—on the Winnipeg cenotaph six years later.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Winnipeg

Winnipeg's Cenotaph, just north of the Legislative Building on Memorial Boulevard, is an ongoing location for remembrance. Unveiled on November 7, 1928, the memorial has a colourful history, with at least two designers involved before the final choice of Winnipeg architect Gilbert Parfitt allowed the memorial to be developed. The powerful tapered form of grey granite is expertly designed in all its features, and equally expertly constructed, ensuring that this significant memorial is honorable, down to its last detail. The names of those it memorializes are too numerous to be listed; incised on its sides are the names of prominent battle sites.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Virden

The Virden cenotaph is an excellent example of the kind of modestly-sized memorials that can often be found in smaller Manitoba centres. The tall, handsome form typical of the type is here, enriched by the creative use of a rough stone base – as if the cenotaph were emerging from that element. A real sword buried in the base suggests an end to conflict and death, underlined by the words “deep buried lies the sword.” Sadly, however, to the names of 70 young men from the Virden area who were lost in 1914-18 are added a stone plaque with another 35 who were taken in 1939-45.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Hartney

The Hartney memorial is a good example of a small cenotaph, and reveals how even at this modest size, the forms and appointments give this kind of monument its power and grace. The broad bulk of the main soft grey granite form, set on several steps for greater height, is capped with a dentilled cornice, as well as various decorative relief sculptures – a maple leaf, a sword and a wreath. The names of 22 lost local men and boys are engraved on the front of the monument, while a plaque on the back adds 15 names from World War II.

Find the Memorial

Cenotaphs in Manitoba can be found in the following communities. Each entry includes a link to the Manitoba Historical Society page which includes an image and exact locational details for each memorial, and, where available, information on the soldiers identified on it.

Birtle

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/birtlewarmemorial.shtml>

Eriksdale

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/eriksdalewarmemorial.shtml>

Flin Flon

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/flinflonwarmemorial.shtml>

Gilbert Plains

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/gilbertplainswarmemorial.shtml>

Hartney

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/hartneywarmemorial.shtml>

Miniota

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/miniotawarmemorial.shtml>

Selkirk

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/selkirkwarmemorial.shtml>

Stonewall

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/stonewallwarmemorial.shtml>

Stony Mountain

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/stonymountainveterans.shtml>

Virden

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/virdenwarmemorial.shtml>

Winnipeg

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/winnipegcenotaph.shtml>

Statues

Perhaps the most affecting war memorial designs are those that feature a sculpted figure.

These monuments are rich in historical allusions, coming to us via the millennia-old history of figural sculpture. Their design, pose, facial expressions, details, and craftsmanship can all be traced through their sculptural antecedents. They are often deeply moving, providing the very physical presence of an individual soldier, perhaps carved in shimmering white marble or cast in glowing bronze, and rendered in vivid detail. Most often, they are placed well above eye level, and thus beyond a viewer's touch. Many gaze resolutely into the distance.

Such memorials deserve our attention and prolonged exploration. Many of the Manitoba examples—there are 36 such memorials in this province—are individually impressive, but they are also interesting as a collection.

Manitoba has several special and majestic examples, tours de force of sculptural design. We also have a few naive and particularly affecting examples, likely carried out by a novice sculptor. In addition, we find a large collection of fine sculpted figures that are so similar in pose and detail that they appear to have sprung from a single mind, and a single hand. A review of the section of this study entitled “The Making of a Memorial” will confirm this observation – that many Manitoba communities found the necessary sculptural results from the workshops of Carrara, Italy, where artisanal sculptors were producing scores of these kinds of figures for memorials all over the world.

Anyone exploring these striking memorials will benefit from reviewing this section of the study with reference to “The Making of a Memorial,” which is mainly focused on the production of statuary monuments.



“The Response,” Canada’s National War Memorial in Ottawa—unveiled in 1939 even as the next great war was threatening—demonstrates the kind of dramatic and powerful expression possible with figural sculpture, in this case carried out by British sculptor Vernon March and completed after his death in 1930 by his brothers and sister. (D. Gordon E. Robertson)

An exploration of Manitoba’s figural war memorials profits from a review of some additional information about military uniforms and accoutrements, and a bit on sculptural and design qualities. (Information in this section is derived mainly from Paul Reed’s “Old Front Line” website.)

When war broke out in August of 1914, the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) was formed, which by 1918 comprised more than 260 numbered battalions, as well as support units such as a Medical Corps, Engineers and Artillery. The basic Canadian uniform was very similar to the 1902 pattern Service Dress worn by British soldiers, but with a few basic modifications: nine buttons instead of seven, pointed cuff ends on the tunic sleeves, and detachable shoulder straps. The latter were coloured according to service: dark blue for infantry, green for rifle regiments, red for artillery and yellow for cavalry. This Canadian 1903 pattern uniform, issued to the original CEF, was worn in the field well into 1916.



View of the standard uniform worn by Canadians 1914-15, in this specific case for a Lance Corporal, 1st (Canadian) Division 1915. In 1916, the trench helmet was introduced for combat use. (Paul Reed's "Old Front Line" website)

In addition to this basic uniform, soldiers were issued with some form of personal load-carrying equipment, generally known as webbing (after the material most often used in its manufacture). Canadian soldiers were issued with a variety of different equipment, manufactured from cotton webbing but also, when cotton became scarce, made from leather in a similar pattern. When the CEF

was formed there was hardly enough equipment to go around, so a variety of patterns of personal kit were in use. These included a Canadian version of the 1908 pattern, as well as Oliver and Mills Burrowes 1913 patterns. Photographs suggest that men in the same unit might use any of several patterns at the same time, some of it borrowed from the British. Leather equipment was found to be inferior in combat situations, and was replaced by cotton webbing wherever possible.



Webbing in Mills-Burrowes WE13 Pattern, worn over the standard-issue uniform and used for carrying vital equipment needed for battle and survival.

The main weapon in use at this time was the Canadian Ross Rifle, which quickly became infamous. It was very accurate on the training ranges in Valcartier, but it proved highly problematic under war conditions. It often jammed in the mud, and many Canadian soldiers were killed when it fired unexpectedly as they were trying to kick open the bolt to extract a round. Its shortcomings in open battle became very apparent during the Second Battle of Ypres (April 1915), when

many Canadian soldiers abandoned their Ross rifles for Lee Enfield rifles retrieved from the bodies of their fallen British comrades. By the battles of the Somme in 1916, Lee Enfields had replaced the Ross for combat purposes, with the latter being relegated to training purposes. Some snipers continued to use the Ross, as it was extremely accurate under favourable conditions.

These few basic pieces of information are useful to keep in mind as we examine the figural sculptures on Manitoba's memorials. Some wear a greatcoat and many more wear the basic uniform, while others have a full set of webbing as if kitted out directly for battle. Observe whether the figure wears a helmet or a peaked cap; knowing that the helmet became battle issue in 1916, any figure pictured in either a helmet or a peaked cap and webbing must surely have been imagined as wearing battle dress. We might generally expect webbing and helmets to go together, as they do on the figure at Carberry. However, we must also keep in mind that there may be inconsistencies in dress (as we know there are inaccuracies) because many of the sculptures were made elsewhere.



The determined gaze of the figure on the Carberry war memorial, an excellent example of an Italian marble figure. He is at rest but alert and ready for action. And, perhaps most strikingly as we look at these figures now and remember the terrible losses, he looks so very young and full of promise. (Historic Resources Branch)



This full view of the war memorial at Manitou—with the figure raised well above the viewer on quite an elaborate pedestal—is a good example showing how many such monuments were assembled locally using an imported statue. In this case we see a grey granite shaft, heavily etched with words and names, raised on broad limestone steps. The top of the shaft is tapered and roughened for a more dramatic transition to the marble figure itself. Stones to the dead of World War II have been added at either side, and the whole thing may have been raised on two extra concrete steps at the same time. It is a powerful expression of the depth of loss experienced by Manitoba's communities. (Gordon Goldsborough Manitoba Historical Society)

The following review of this special artistic legacy features all of the major sculptural works in Manitoba – several in Winnipeg and unique examples in Dauphin, St. Claude, Neepawa and St. Pierre Jolys. A rare type used at Russell and Killarney is explored via the Russell example. First, the larger collection of 25 memorials with common sculptural attributes is explored via a good representative example of each of five types – for the soldier at ease (which clearly are from one source), for two slight variations of that type (which appear to come from different Italian sources), for the soldier at attention and finally the soldier in a remorseful pose.

All of Manitoba's sculpted memorials are worth visiting. Each will offer viewers a rewarding and moving experience. Get up close, and examine the convincing rendering of hands, caps or rifles. Consider how individuality is captured through different expressions, and even details like attention to hair styles. Examine the myriad details – like canteens, buttons and puttees (the cloth used to wrap the lower leg for support and protection), and how the uniform cloth is rendered to raise the level of realism. And then step back, and look at the whole. Look at the unique qualities of the pedestals, which are often also of considerable interest. Consider the pose and the gaze of the figure, and ponder the weight of meaning – courage, loss, death, hope, and, much less often – glory.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Reston

The Reston memorial is a good example of the most common pose selected for the small-town marble-sculpted statues; and seen with exactly the same design and detail at six other sites, in Arden, Gladstone, Holland, Kelwood, Portage la Prairie and Rivers.

The soldier's gaze is slightly to the left. He is serious and calm, but intent on things and thoughts far away. He stands slightly at ease, with hands clasped over the barrel of his rifle. The fine carving exercised for his uniform, cap and accoutrements like the canteen are all expertly done.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society; Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Margaret

A collection of six marble sculptures reprise the basic pose seen in the previous entry, but with variations that suggest they are all from different Italian workshops. The example at Margaret is typical, and suggests the main differences – a gaze that is nearly straight ahead, and with arms and hands holding the rifle in a less relaxed manner. The other examples that are akin are at Boissevain, Hamiota, Manitou, Roblin and Treherne.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Carberry

A small set of three sculptures employs a stance in which a soldier is at ease, with his rifle held at the side, as seen here at Carberry. Each of this collection—which also includes Roland and Rossburn—is otherwise unique in other aspects of stance and detail work. The Carberry example is noteworthy as one of the few of the small-town sculptural memorials where the figure is helmeted; most other examples feature a cap. The sculptor in this case also took great care with a variety of other details, not the least of which is the solemn and resolute gaze.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Newdale

Four small-town marble statues feature the soldier with rifle at the side, but in a pose more at attention. Besides the example at Newdale, the other statues are at Binscarth, Foxwarren and Dugald (which was recently moved from its original location in Oak Bank). Aside from the basic pose, each of the statues is unique in other aspects; for example, the Newdale figure is kitted out for battle, with a helmet and webbing. A fifth example that might have been grouped with this type, at Morden, is featured in the section “Architectural,” given its position in a grander memorial design.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Emerson

A fifth small-town figural type, used for the memorials at Emerson and MacGregor, features a soldier caught at a moment of resignation and reflection – in a pose with his head resting on his hand, which in turn rests on the rifle. This figure, which is seen in larger figural groupings at St. Claude and St. Pierre-Jolys, is also set apart by the fact that, rather than originating in a generic Italian workshop, it was designed by the St. Boniface sculptor Nicholas Piroton (though it was very probably sculpted in Italy, as we know a version in Weyburn, Saskatchewan was), and was copied in bronze in Ganonoque, Ontario. The Emerson and MacGregor soldiers feature helmets and, unusually, great coats.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society; Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Russell

This is probably Manitoba's sole example of the work of Toronto sculptor Emanuel Hahn. The original bronze stands in Westville, NS, and others were carved in granite by artisans at the Thomson Monument Company, for which Hahn was the chief designer. They, together with several other designs by Hahn, stand in towns and villages across the country. The sombre figure of a soldier mourns his fallen comrades at a hastily-prepared battlefield grave, head bared and helmet slung over his shoulder. The monument is engraved with 83 names from World War I, with 14 more added after 1945. "Those whom this monument commemorates were numbered among those who at the call of King and country left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom," it states, exhorting: "Let those that come after see to it that their names be not forgotten."

Killarney has a very similar memorial (right), supplied by Hooper Marble and Granite from Winnipeg and carved from marble in Italy. It is one of a number of copies or near-copies of Hahn's work that appear in several towns and cities across the country.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Dauphin



Uniquely in Manitoba, the Dauphin memorial features a solitary female figure; other female figures appear in Winnipeg, as an angel guiding a dead soldier to the heavens (at the CPR memorial), and in St. Pierre-Jolys, as the warrior-saint Joan of Arc. The Dauphin figure, “Miss Canada in Mourning,” is said to have been sculpted by one Signor Rumbollo of Italy. The figure is tall, proud, in classical drapery, and clearly bereft, gazing downwards and clasping her elegant hands in grief. Perhaps she is contemplating the awful list below her of 82 names of young men lost in the Great War, as well as another 80 from World War II. One name from the Korean War is also included.

The cenotaph-like base of the monument, another exceptional piece of design, was designed by a local artist, Herbert Payton, and the whole assemblage, at a cost of \$5,500, was put up by Guinn and Simpson Memorials of Portage la Prairie. The monument was unveiled with great ceremony in 1924, attended by the Lieutenant Governor Sir James Aikins and Premier John Bracken.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society; Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Neepawa

A completely unique sculptural figure in Manitoba appears atop the handsome pedestal at the Neepawa war memorial. With his great coat fluttering in the wind, and with close attention to details—including the solemn facial expression—this is a major piece of monument design. Being cast in bronze, it must have been an enormous undertaking of fundraising and organization for the town.

As at many memorials, the base contains the names of battles in which local men lost their lives—Amiens, Sanctuary Wood, Arras, Somme, Festubert, St. Eloi, Givenchy, Vimy Ridge, Ypres and Passchendaele—and then 122 names of the dead of the Great War. A nearby marker notes the loss of 76 local men from World War II and three from the Korean War.



(Historic Resources Branch)

St. Claude

Dedicated in 1921 and recently restored, this grand monument in the small community of St. Claude is one of a handful of memorials that honour French and Franco-Manitoban efforts in World War I—particularly acknowledging the fact that, of the 94 local residents who fought, 76 did so as part of the French army. Besides the fine sculpted soldiers (one Canadian and one French) carried out by St. Boniface sculptor Nicolas Piroton) and the exquisite base design—with its curved brackets and elaborate architectural form—this example is notable for the prominent positioning of a bust of the French Marshal Ferdinand Foch. Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies in 1918, Foch is credited with halting German advances at the Second Battle of the Marne, and with the military strategy that ended the war.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)
St. Pierre-Jolys

The familiar Nicholas Piroton soldier at St. Claude (and at other sites), with head resting on hand in a pose of resignation, is reprised at this major Franco-Manitoban memorial. The French hero theme is reinforced here with the inclusion of Joan of Arc, the French national hero, visionary and warrior saint, who in the 15th century led French military forces in many successes against the English, and who was burned at the stake upon her capture by the English on 30 May 1431. It is not certain that the Joan of Arc statue on this memorial was also by Piroton, but it is likely to be so.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Winnipeg, Next of Kin Monument

Unveiled in 1923, this monument is dedicated to the memory of the more than 1,600 soldiers from Greater Winnipeg (within eight miles of Portage and Main) who lost their lives in the war. Mrs. Hilliard (Marguerite) Taylor's highly realistic sculpture is a tour-de-force of form and detail. Ms Taylor observed that the figure illustrates a specific moment: "the time peace was declared, when the victorious soldier threw his rifle into his left hand and triumphantly whirled his tin hat in the air." The base was designed by Colonel J.N. Semmens, a prominent and prolific local architect and himself a veteran of some of Europe's bloodiest battlefields. The stonework was by Wyatt and Ireland of Winnipeg, while the bronze plaques, with their lists of names, were cast by Henry Birks and Son.



(Historic Resources Branch; Alan MacLeod, by permission)

Winnipeg, Canadian Pacific Railway Employees

Montrealer Coeur de Lion MacCarthy produced this memorial for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) to honour its 1,115 employees lost in the war. Three were cast, the others for Montreal and Vancouver. The Winnipeg monument was unveiled at the CPR Station in 1922, and now stands at Deer Lodge Centre. The sculptural vision is assured, the dramatic composition at once elegant and perhaps even reassuring for those attempting to banish awful visions of death in the Flanders mud.

The depiction of a dead soldier on a war memorial is extremely rare in Canada. We might contrast the relative optimism of this one—made when some people still called it “the war to end all wars”—with the figure of a soldier face down in the mud on Winnipeg’s Belgian monument, unveiled in 1938 even as the storm clouds were gathering once again.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Winnipeg, "Le Poilu," St. Boniface Cathedral

"Le Poilu" is a word for French soldiers during the First World War, an equivalent to the English "Tommies." This 1920 memorial, located in the west end of St. Boniface Cathedral Cemetery, is a grand gesture with an interesting history. The bronze figure, sculpted by Eugène Benet and reportedly given to St. Boniface by the French government, was used on hundreds of French memorials. Nicolas Piroton designed the base and did final preparations on the bronze cast, with A C. LeGrand as builders. Dedicated to Francophones of Western Canada who died in the First World War (with WWII added later), the design is heroic and hopeful: the figure leans forward, clutching a garland and a palm—symbols of victory and peace—and calls out, as loudly as he can, to anyone who will listen.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Winnipeg, Belgian Monument



This is the only memorial in Manitoba that dares to show a real moment of war – with a battle-weary Belgian soldier standing over the prone and dead body of a comrade. It is heartbreakingly real. Winnipeg sculptor Hubert A. Garnier brought his considerable artistic skills to bear on this commission, and the result is a major landmark in St. Boniface – situated on a small site in the centre of Provencher Boulevard south of the Belgian Club.

The statues were carried out with stone from Haddington Island, British Columbia, which is renowned for its grey andesite, considered to be that province's finest building stone because, though hard, it is relatively easily profiled and carved. The rest of the monument was completed at the Gillies Quarries in Winnipeg. The memorial was unveiled on 1 October 1938, and restored and rededicated on 17 September 1995.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Winnipeg, Bank of Montreal Employees

The Bank of Montreal lost some 230 employees in the First World War. Seeking to commemorate the sacrifice made by their workers, the bank arranged an international competition for a monument. The winning design was by James Earle Fraser, an American. The bronze soldier was cast in the image of Captain Wynn Bagnall, a bank employee who had served in the war and was awarded the Military Cross. The unveiling was not universally applauded, as veterans were disappointed by Fraser's use of an American uniform, characterized particularly by its voluminous double-breasted overcoat and tall laced boots. The Memorial is nevertheless of exceptional sculptural quality, and with its situation since 1923 at the corner of Portage and Main, in front of the Bank of Montreal, it is a beloved landmark. The impressive amount of detail, captured so vividly and realistically, makes this one of Manitoba's prime examples of the level of ability that attended late 19th and early 20th century figurative sculptural works.

Find the Memorial

Sculpted figural memorials in Manitoba can be found in the following communities. Each entry includes a link to the Manitoba Historical Society page which includes an image and exact locational details for each memorial, and, where available, information on the soldiers identified on it.

Arden

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/lansdownewarmemorial.shtml>

Binscarth

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/binscarthwarmemorial.shtml>

Boissevain

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/boissevainwarmemorial.shtml>

Carberry

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/carberrywarmemorial.shtml>

Dauphin

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/dauphinwarmemorial.shtml>

Dugald (Oakbank)

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Emerson

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/emersonwarmemorial.shtml>

Foxwarren

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/foxwarrenwarmemorial.shtml>

Gladstone

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/gladstonewarmemorial.shtml>

Hamiota

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/hamiotawarmemorial.shtml>

Holland

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/hollandwarmemorial.shtml>

Kelwood

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/kelwoodwarmemorial.shtml>

Killarney

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/killarneywarmemorial.shtml>

MacGregor

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/macgregorwarmemorial.shtml>

Manitou

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/manitouwarmemorial.shtml>

Margaret

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/margaretcemetery.shtml>

Morden

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/mordenwarmemorial.shtml>

Newdale

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/newdalepostoffice.shtml>

Neepawa

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/neepawawarmemorial.shtml>

Portage la Prairie

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/portagewarmemorial.shtml>

Reston

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/restonwarmemorial.shtml>

Roblin

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/roblinwarmemorial.shtml>

Rivers

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/riverswarmemorial.shtml>

Roland

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/rolandwarmemorial.shtml>

Rosburn

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/robburnwarmemorial.shtml>

Russell

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/russellwarmemorial.shtml>

St. Claude

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/stclaudewarmemorial.shtml>

St. Pierre-Jolys

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/stpierrejolyswarmemorial.shtml>

Treherne

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/trehernewarmemorial.shtml>

Winnipeg

Bank of Montreal

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/bankofmontrealwarmonument.shtml>

Deer Lodge

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Next of Kin

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/nextofkin.shtml>

Commonwealth Women

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/womenveterans.shtml>

St. Boniface – Belgian

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/stbonifacewarmemorial.shtml>

St Boniface – Cathedral

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Architectural

A number of Manitoba war memorials have architectural aspirations. Some are, quite literally, buildings, but others have qualities of design and appearance that make them appear as building-like forms, or at least as elements of buildings – columns, walls, or arches.

The use of a building has a long history in funerary traditions, including of course the pyramids of ancient Egypt. In Victorian times, during the 19th century, it was fairly common for wealthy families to create grand mausoleums, based on Greek and Roman temple designs. These often exquisite buildings, replete with fine classical details and carried out in marble or other stone, were a highlight in many large cemeteries. Examples in Manitoba are mainly found in Winnipeg, where some especially notable mausoleums are located in Elmwood and St. Mary's cemeteries.

This kind of formal ambition was also directed at some war memorial creations, and the design attentions make these memorials unique – that is, there is often no other example quite the same in Manitoba. The samples selected on the following pages, and analyzed individually according to their specific design qualities, are a testament to the creativity and ingenuity of the monument designers and builders.

These kinds of memorials can be very personal in their design and construction, and so are interesting to contemplate. Visitors to these sites should consider how forms were conceived for their memorable shapes (this is usually best done from a distance), how materials were put together for novel or arresting effects, and then how the memorial aspects were addressed.



A mausoleum at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Winnipeg. (Historic Resources Branch)



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Carman

The Memorial Hall, an elegant Georgian Revival-style building, is a fine example of a structure that integrates important historical events with daily community life. The hall is both a monument to area residents who served in the military during the First World War, including 83 who died in battles at Vimy Ridge and Mons, and a multi-purpose public building. Its commemorative role is evident in the artefacts located on its grounds, its exterior detailing and the interior memorial room, which contains commemorative statuary, wreaths and memorabilia of the war. The building remains a landmark and valued public facility in the Carman/Dufferin district.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Darlingford

In 1921 Darlingford and the surrounding district commemorated their military efforts by constructing this small Gothic-inspired memorial building and park. It is the only free-standing memorial building in Manitoba with the sole function of commemorating the war dead. Inside the memorial, two black marble tablets bear the names of the 199 local veterans and victims of World Wars I and II.

The tranquil setting of the memorial and park evokes a spirit of hope and remembrance in stark contrast with the battlefields of Europe. It was the inspiration of Ferris Bolton, a pioneer farmer and politician from Darlingford, who lost three sons in France in 1917.

The memorial was designed by Arthur A. Stoughton, the first head of the School of Architecture, University of Manitoba. The Morden Experimental Farm designed and landscaped the park. Dr. W.R. Leslie, the Farm's superintendent, tended the park for many years.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Women's Tribute Memorial Lodge, Winnipeg

The Women's Tribute Memorial Lodge was developed as a veteran's memorial with funds raised by the women of Manitoba. The Lodge was conceived as a symbol of gratitude and remembrance for those who served in the First World War. Constructed in 1931, the building was not just a monument, but a living memorial containing an auditorium, games room and a special space called the Room of Silence. These facilities were used by the veterans from the Great War to help them continue with their lives, and as a commemorative space to remember all those that had served their province and country.

Designed by prominent Manitoba architects George W. Northwood and Cyril W. U. Chivers, both of whom had served in the First World War, the Women's Tribute Memorial Lodge also is a rare Manitoba example of the Art Deco style of architecture. With its basic cubic form, crisp edges and effective geometric decoration, it is a fine example of the style.

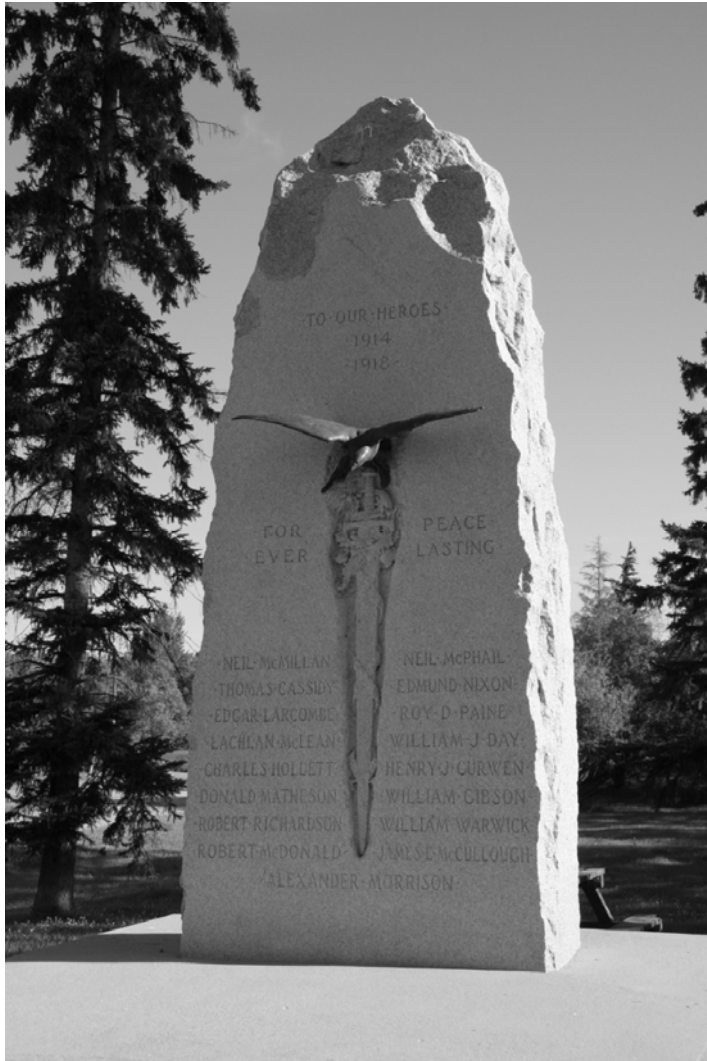


(Patrick Morican)

Alexander

Alexander's war memorial is one of the most striking sculptural accomplishments in the province. Perhaps conceived as a combination of a cairn and an obelisk, the powerful form is composed of four huge granite blocks, with an elegant transitional piece outlined with delicate curves – and the years 1914-1918 inscribed. The memorial is at once rugged, elemental, and beautiful.

At its base are inscribed the words: "Let Those Who Come After See to it that Their Names Be Not Forgotten." The names (18 from the First World War; two from the Second) appear on a bronze plaque. Perhaps this was recast after 1945, as the memorial otherwise appears to date from the inter-war period.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Basswood

The Basswood memorial (1922 or earlier) is an amazing piece of design. The huge stone, turned upright, with rusticated edges but a finely shaved main face, is at once elemental and mysterious. With its roughly-chipped point, it recalls the great standing stones of past ages. But there is more, for incised into the planar face is a dramatic cleft that contains a finely-carved sheathed sword with a bronze dove bursting from the cleft just at its hilt, "For Peace Everlasting." The names of the 17 local men lost in the war are inscribed in large letters to cover most of the monument's face. An additional slab stands in front, with six names from World War II.





(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Bowsman

The Bowsman monument is shaped very much like a familiar building form, but rendered somewhat exotic by its placement on the ground – it is really a small dome with a classical lantern and cross rising to the sky. The memorial gains even greater distinction through the contrasting use of concrete for the rectangular elements and a finishing of cobblestones on the curved elements.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Forrest

The monument at Forrest is a popular gravemarker type that was, oddly, used for only a handful of war memorials – the simple and evocative column. This example gains additional dignity through its elevation on a broad stepped base. The use of an urn shape at the apex of the column was also a common design feature for this type of memorial. Texts are inscribed on the column shaft, and include nine names from World War I and two from World War II.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)
Griswold

This unusual and imaginative memorial uses the obelisk form as the apex of a large and complex design. Twisted 90 degrees from its traditional presentation, the obelisk gains a more dramatic presence. The use of what appear to be mortar shells and a monolithic bunker-like base make this one of Manitoba's most interesting memorials.

The inscriptions, which feature 25 names from World War I and six from World War II, are also set in a distinctive format, on the memorial's base.



(Historic Resources Branch)

Morden

The Town of Morden/R.M. of Stanley's 1921 memorial is not strictly architectural, but the striking assemblage of stock elements—a carved figure, an obelisk, a plinth and stepped base—certainly make for a powerful piece of design. Local gravestone manufacturers S. Scott and A.G. Selley are credited as architects, with the sculptor being the Western Stone Company of St. Boniface. Nicolas Pirotton worked for that company for a time, which has perhaps given rise to the story that he was the sculptor, but by the time this memorial was made, he was already running his own monument works; the attribution is therefore unlikely. The monument features the names of "Our Glorious Dead": 45 from the First World War and 35 from World War II.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Teulon

This unusual monument combines a very tactile obelisk form of rough stone with a broad base. The monument features 14 names from the dead of World War I and 17 from World War II.



(Gordon Goldsborough, Manitoba Historical Society)

Roseisle

The Roseisle monument presents an entirely familiar building element – a brick wall—abstracted by the use of pillars at the edges and elegantly curved transitional elements. The memorial features 62 names of local men lost in World War I, 69 from World War II and four lost in the Korean War of 1950-53.

The wall hardly then seems large or broad enough for 135 mostly young men gone, forever. Hopefully the epitaph is correct: “Together We Will Remember.”



(Historic Resources Branch)

St. Andrews

The freestanding arch leading into the cemetery at St. Andrews-on-the-Red Anglican Church is also a war memorial, inscribed with the fragment "Greater Love Hath No Man Than This." A quotation from John 15:13, which appears quite commonly on war memorials, the line continues "that a man lay down his life for his friends." The monument features a total of 56 names, commemorating the local dead of the World Wars and Korea. The arch is a striking piece of design, with fine relief sculptures on the square-column elements and on the spring and haunch stones. The keystone, topped by a carved torch, also includes a sculpted soldier's portrait.

Find the Memorial

Manitoba Memorials that have architectural qualities can be found in the following communities. Each entry includes a link to the Manitoba Historical Society page which includes an image and exact locational details for each memorial, and, where available, information on the soldiers identified on it.

Buildings

Carman

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/carmanwarmemorial.shtml>

Darlingford

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/darlingfordmemorialpark.shtml>

Winnipeg: Deer Lodge

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Sculptural

Alexander

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/alexanderwarmemorial.shtml>

Basswood

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/basswoodwarmemorial.shtml>

Bowsman

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/bowsmanwarmemorial.shtml>

Forrest

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/forrestwarmemorial.shtml>

Architectural

Dominion City

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/dominioncitywarmemorial.shtml>

Griswold

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/griswoldwarmemorial.shtml>

Lac du Bonnet

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/lacdubonnetwarmemorial.shtml>

Morden

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/mordenwarmemorial.shtml>

Teulon

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/teulonwarmemorial.shtml>

Roseisle

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/roseislewarmemorial.shtml>

Arches

Deloraine

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Plumas

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/plumaswarmemorial.shtml>

St. Andrews

Manitoba Historical Society Page in Development

Waskada

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/waskadawarmemorial.shtml>

Crosses

Camp Morton

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/lakesidewarmemorial.shtml>

Oak Lake

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/oaklakewarmemorial.shtml>

Pipestone

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/pipestonewarmemorial.shtml>

Rapid City

<http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/rapidcitywarmemorial.shtml>

LOCAL WORLD WAR I STORIES



The 184th Battalion marches through Manitou in 1916 (Margie Durham Collection)

LOCAL WORLD WAR I STORIES

Manitoba's hundreds of local histories, produced over the past 50 years, are a remarkable achievement, containing a wealth of information –community developments, family histories and usually an impressive collection of early photographs.

Many of these Manitoba histories feature sections devoted to local military efforts in the First World War, as well as for World War II, the Korean War of 1950-53, and more recent conflicts. But it is the focus on the Great War, of 1914-1918, that is of special interest for this project, and which also often contains the most poignant and interesting information that helps place Manitoba's war memorials into a community context.

Argyle

The Gun Club and the Home Front

A passage in the R.M. of Argyle history book, *Come Into Our Heritage* (1981) provides some background about the “home front” in World War I:

When war broke out in Europe in 1914, Manitobans rushed to support the British cause. Even before the outbreak of war, rifle clubs had been formed so that, in the words of a 1910 [edition of the] *Baldur Gazette*: “in the event of an invasion of our Dominion we have numerous companies of men, that after a couple of weeks licking into shape by a smart drill sergeant of the regular force, would be quite capable of defending the hearth and homes of their country”.

The Rock Lake Gun Club, the oldest continuously active trapshooting facility in Manitoba, was established by Joe Avery in 1912. At first there was some opposition to the club by local council that it was a hazard to continue at its site just above the north shore of Rock Lake. Members of the club were welcomed into the armed forces when war broke out in 1914. As soon as Britain declared war there was intense pressure for all eligible men to join up. Monster recruiting rallies were held during the winter of 1916, the local units of the Southern Manitoba Battalion were set up. The 233rd Infantry was nicknamed the ‘Scandinavian Vikings,’ Giant farewell socials were held for each troop as it left its own town. Those men who did not join, found it difficult to justify in the face of such a passage as this taken from the *Gazette*, August 23, 1917:

TRENCH THAT FRITZ BUILT

This is the maid, who treats with scorn the shifty slacker, all shaven and shorn, and his shining car with the tooting horn, but honours the farmer all weary and worn and his wife who helps him hoe the corn and milk the cow in the early morn, for she loves the son who to them was born, who in front of the battle all tattered and torn, still mans the gun that killed the Hun who lay in the trench that Fritz built.

Honour rolls were posted – not so much to honour those who had joined up, but to show who had not. Soon, lists of soldiers killed in the trenches “somewhere in France” were being published in local papers. The *Gazette* consoled those who had lost sons: “It must be immensely gratifying for the parents to know that their boy died a hero, fighting for his country’s freedom.”



Argyle area men of the 222nd Battalion posing for a group photograph while training near Baldur in 1916.

People at home joined the total war effort. Patriotic Associations were formed to raise money for the war effort. Women formed Ladies' Patriotic Sewing Circles, sewing and knitting for the troops. Teen-age boys joined the 'Sons of the Soil' and received badges of honour for working on a farm for three months in the summer. Boys also joined the 'Earn and Give Program,' working at odd jobs and pledging their earnings to the war effort. Men, women and children in towns formed Harvest Clubs going out to work on farms at harvest time. (In fact many children stayed out of school to do farm work.) Victory bonds were sold. When each area reached its quota it was given an 'Honour Flag.' For every 25% over the quota a crown was affixed to the flag.

In 1918, when conscription came into force, each district set up a National Service Board to which all men had to apply, be examined and declared fit or unfit. A man could apply to a local Exemption Tribunal to be exempted. In most cases men with families and farms to support were granted exemptions. However, by the end of the war almost all the eligible men were in the armed forces.

When the war ended on November 11, 1918, a half holiday was declared. Every town held giant 'Welcome Home' celebrations for each batch of returning soldiers. 'Welcome Home' funds were collected for returning soldiers; local branches of the Great War Veteran's Association were organized. In spite of the general celebrations, memories endured of those who had lost their lives.

The influenza epidemic that swept the world in 1918 did not bypass Argyle. There was a ban on visitors to the area for five weeks. In December, 50 cases had been reported in Baldur and several in rural areas.

In 1919, the general depression that followed the ending of the war also hit the farmers of Argyle. The decade which had begun with so much hope had seen one generation cut down and farmers in a precarious position because of lower grain prices.

Austin

The Home Front

In the local history, *A History of the Austin and Surrounding Districts*, there are accounts of local fund-raising efforts to support the Canadian war effort:

Space will not permit a detailed account of all the war work done on the home front. However, a few items from old newspapers of that time will give a general picture of those worthwhile activities.

The “Admiral Wemyss” Chapter of the Imperial Order daughters of the Empire was organized in Austin (on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd, 1914 at 3 p.m. in the Canadian Order of Foresters Hall) by Mrs. J. J. Garland (Vice-Pres. Provincial Chapter) of Portage la Prairie. The fee was \$1.00 per year. The aims of the Society were purely patriotic, and to alleviate suffering in any part of our empire.

Mr. A. Pickering was of great help to the I.O.D.E war workers at this time. He spent countless hours collecting money which he turned in to the Society. This money was used by them to buy wool and materials for knitting and sewing articles of clothing for the overseas.

In 1914 there was a collection campaign in aid of a Daughters of the Empire Hospital Ship. Miss Eva Stinson of Austin collected \$18.50; Miss Connie and Miss Mabel Sharpley of Arizona, collected \$27.85.

On Dec. 2nd, 1915 the “Admiral Wemyss” Chapter held a meeting at the home of Miss Mary Madill in Austin, and decided to place a cot in the Convalescent Hospital for Wounded Soldiers in Winnipeg. Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Leckie made a generous cash donation to the fund at this time; a credit to the Sight Hill district where they lived.

In 1915 the people of Sidney and district donated over \$1,000.00 for a machine gun for the front. They also started a Red Cross Fund which met with great success.

Many entertainments, charging admission, were held during the war years, with the proceeds going to the I.O.D.E, the Red Cross, the Returned Soldiers’ Fund,

etc. The Orangeville school house was noted for its successful concerts and dances. Similar evenings were enjoyed in many of the country school houses.



The Emmeline "Willing Workers" (*A History of the Austin and Surrounding Districts*, 115)

In March of 1917 a dance was held in F. Ritzer's farm home in Emmeline. On this occasion tickets on a quilt donated by Mrs. F. Kilfoyle were sold. (This quilt was sown by Miss Annie Emerson.) On this same occasion, \$13.95 was given by Mr. Gale, Mr. Turner, Jim Collier and Trevor Poyser, the proceeds from the sale of wood.

In April of 1917 a spelling match and 10c tea was held in the Austin school. Homemade candy was sold. Proceeds went to the Belgium Relief Fund.

On Thursday, July 26th, 1917, the Emmeline "Willing Workers" held a garden party at the farm house of Mr. and Mrs. P. Poyser. During the evening, baseball, tennis and comic races were enjoyed by the people present. Proceeds of \$32.00 was spent on comforts for the boys overseas.



Boys who enlisted for World War I (*A History of the Austin and Surrounding Districts*, 112)

The Firdale, Pine Creek and Forestville Chapters of I.O.D.E. held a picnic at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Manns in 1917. Proceeds were used for patriotic purposes.

Miss Jean McKenzie, an outstanding artist in the district, who had paintings valued at \$500.00 at that time, donated an oil painting to be raffled in 1917. A motion was made by Mr. Thorn and seconded by Mr. Annison that the Council grant the Red Cross Society \$200.00, and the Serbian Relied Committee \$150.00. Carried.

The amounts of cash mentioned in the foregoing narrative might sound like trivial sums to the present generation. It should therefore be pointed out that, in those days, a dollar was harder to earn than it is today. But, by the same token, it brought more that it does today.

From the *MacGregor Herald* 1918

North Norfolk has not only sent its large contingent of young men to battle for the Empire, but the splendid response to the Victory Loan in this municipality proves that the people are ready to back up the boys with their money.

On Monday the MacGregor district reached its allotment of \$130,000.00 and has been awarded the Governor-General's honor flag. Since then another \$40,000 has been subscribed and one crown has been won.

The canvassers are still busy and hope that before the campaign closes Saturday night that at least one more crown will have been awarded, and that the total subscription will have reached over \$200,000.00.

Austin and Sidney are also meeting with splendid response, and on Monday reached their allotment of \$70,000.00 and thus won the honor flag. Since then they have gone over the \$100,000.00 mark, and they too are out for a number of crowns.

North Norfolk is among the leading Municipalities which proves once again that our people are loyal both in supplying men and money.

The Austin Area Boys Who Never Came Back

Boys who made the Supreme Sacrifice in World War I: Arthur Allwood, J. Bilton, A. Bishop, C. Cairns, L. Cairns, James Collier, Roy Campbell (died later from wounds), R. Dodwell, M.G. Duncan, G. Edward, S. Fowles, Wellington Grey, Geo. Hunt, G. Ireland, Stanley King, W. Lunn, John Lauder, Wm. McElrea, Alex McNab, J. L. Pell, E. Penrice, J. Price, A. Phelps, G. Prior, J. A. Smith, A. Smith, C. Stringer, Joe Sexton, B. Swan, W. Swan, R. Terry, E. Wheeler.

Binscarth

The Cenotaph

James H. Orr, in the Binscarth local history, *Binscarth Memories*, from 1984, describes activities associated with the construction, unveiling and ongoing commemoration of this fine figural memorial:

The Binscarth Cenotaph was erected in 1919 and was unveiled and dedicated June 2, 1920. June 2nd was chosen because five Binscarth soldiers were killed in action about that time. They were George Bradshaw, W. Johnson, John Durant, R. Hallam and Chub Sherritt. General Byer of Minnedosa cut the ribbon at the unveiling.

The monument is fine red granite and the soldier on top is White Italian marble. The cost of the monument was \$1,625.00 and \$1,900.00 was raised by public donations to pay for it. The metal ornamental fence and spruce trees were added later. Donald Mann, a local veteran and blacksmith, made the fence. The spruce trees were donated by Tom Clements who wanted to thin out the trees he had planted on his farm. The pilot was donated by Frank McPherson and the location was decided by the fact that it was near both churches.



Binscarth Memorial at an early commemoration service.

A memorial service is held each year at the Cenotaph on the first Sunday in June, where the names of those who died during the 1914-18 and 1939-45 wars are read out and wreaths are laid. The Binscarth Branch No. 74 is the only rural branch in Manitoba who has held to this tradition each year.

On the 11th of November each year a short service is held to also lay wreaths. On the monument and plaque are the names of those who died in the two wars. On the monument are listed the actions in which the first World War veterans took part: Neuve Chappelle, Ypres, Festubert Givenchy St. Eloi, Sanctuary Wood, Somme, Vimy Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, Arras Canal de Nord, Cambrai, Valenciennes, and Mons.

Ever since the end of the 1914-18 war, when the Cenotaph was set up, Decoration Day has been an annual event on the first Sunday in June. In the early years all the school children marched with the Legion members to the Cenotaph and sat on benches there for the service that followed. The names of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice were read and chosen pupils placed a floral tribute in their memory.



Flower girls (and boy) at the 1927 Decoration Day at the Binscarth Cenotaph.

Decoration Day has changed in the years following and now the Legion members march from the school and gather around the monument for the service. The many names are still read and floral tributes still placed by anyone who wishes, and the audience and Legion go to the Community Hall for the speeches and lunch served by the Legion Auxiliary.

Decoration Day has changed but we still REMEMBER.

Binscarth

A Nursing Sister

Manitoba nurses who served near the front lines of World War I battles are also considered veterans, and there are stories of their ultimate sacrifice.

Two nursing sisters from the Binscarth area served overseas during World War I. Nurse Nora Holloway served in Serbia, and survived the forced retreat with the Serbian Armies. Nurse Margaret A. Lowe, saw service in France, and was severely injured when the hospital in Etaples where she was tending the wounded was bombed. Nurse Lowe ultimately died of her wounds and is buried in France. It is presumed that it is Nurse Lowe who is mentioned on the Binscarth war memorial.

Two other nursing sisters from the Binscarth area served overseas during the Second World War: Nursing Sister Elva Honey served in Italy, Sicily and England, and returned safely to Quebec; Nurse Sadie Horning, served overseas and was awarded the King George Cross for Distinguished Service. She returned safely to Canada went on to nurse at Deer Lodge in Winnipeg.



Nursing Sister Margaret Lowe, of Binscarth, c. 1915. (*Binscarth Memories*, 177)



Two images of the funeral for Nursing Sister Margaret Lowe, of Binscarth, who died of wounds received during a raid by Germans at Etaples, France, May 1918.

Boissevain-Morton

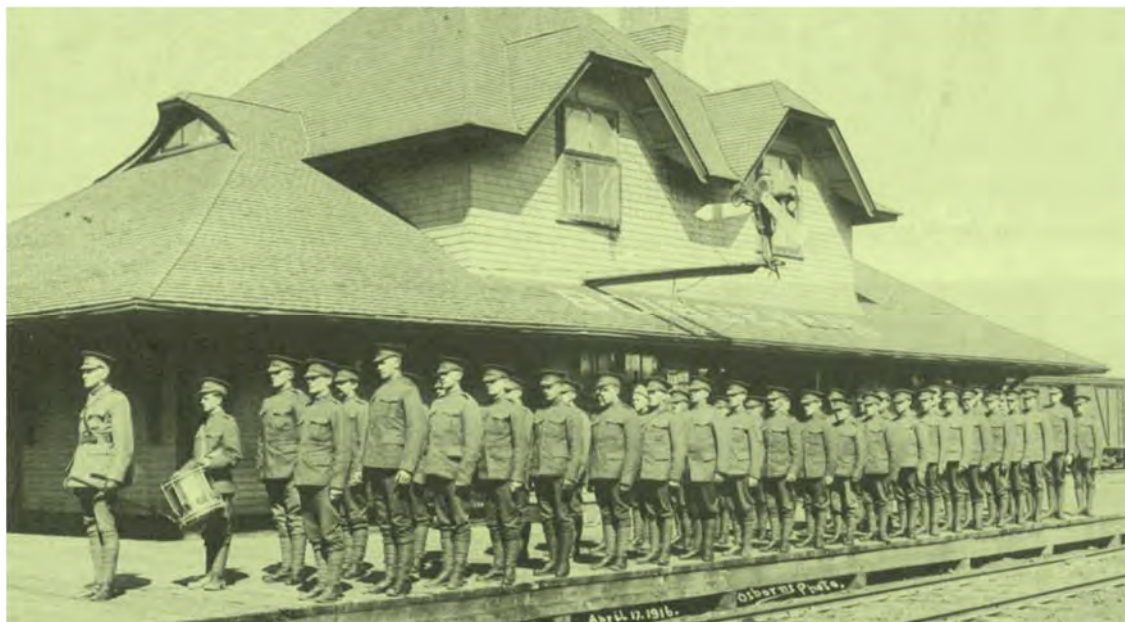
Memories

The local history of the Municipalities of Morton and Boissevain, *Ours is a Goodly Heritage*, provides some information on local activity during World War I:

Our past recorded history of men and women from the Boissevain district who chose to serve the path of freedom gives us an insight into how much they valued their way of life and their determination that it should not be changed. They fought so that we would live as we choose, and to help other lands whose very existence was threatened by the forces of aggression from their neighbours.

The history of participation of men and women from this area is a proud story of unselfish conduct in times of trouble. Our fighting men have been involved during the past hundred years in the Boer War, the Riel Rebellion, World War I, and World War II as well as in the Korean conflict.

World War I, 1914-1918, so called “the war to end all wars,” saw our young men flock to the colours along with their sisters in the nursing service. The long list of those who served from the Boissevain area, a small community, prays tribute to their belief in a just cause. Many died in the service, but all are remembered in service lists of those who gave their life to guarantee the freedom of world.



222nd Overseas Battalion, C.E.F., April 17, 1916 (*Ours is a Goodly Heritage* Morton-Boissevain 1881-1981, 303)



Cenotaph at Memorial Hospital
(*Ours is a Goodly Heritage*, 295)



Decoration Day 1952 at Cenotaph (*Ours is a Goodly Heritage*, 297)

Carman-Dufferin

Answering the Call

The history of Carman-Dufferin contains the following passages concerning local activity focused on World War I and then on the opening of the Memorial Hall.

With the outbreak of World War I, young Canadians were called to fight against aggression. Twenty-eight young men from Carman and district went immediately. Tom Watson, with authority from Ottawa, recruited in Carman. War had been declared on August 4, 1914. Before the end of that month, those twenty-eight men had left Carman, spent two days in Winnipeg and were entrained for Valcartier, Quebec, for training. Before the end of October they were on Salisbury Plains in England for winter maneuvers. Tom was seventeen years old. When queried recently about his age, he said, "I was tall. Nobody asked." Colonel Lightfoot of the 222nd Battalion opened a barracks in Carman and trained men for several months. Most of the single men and many of the married men answered that call.

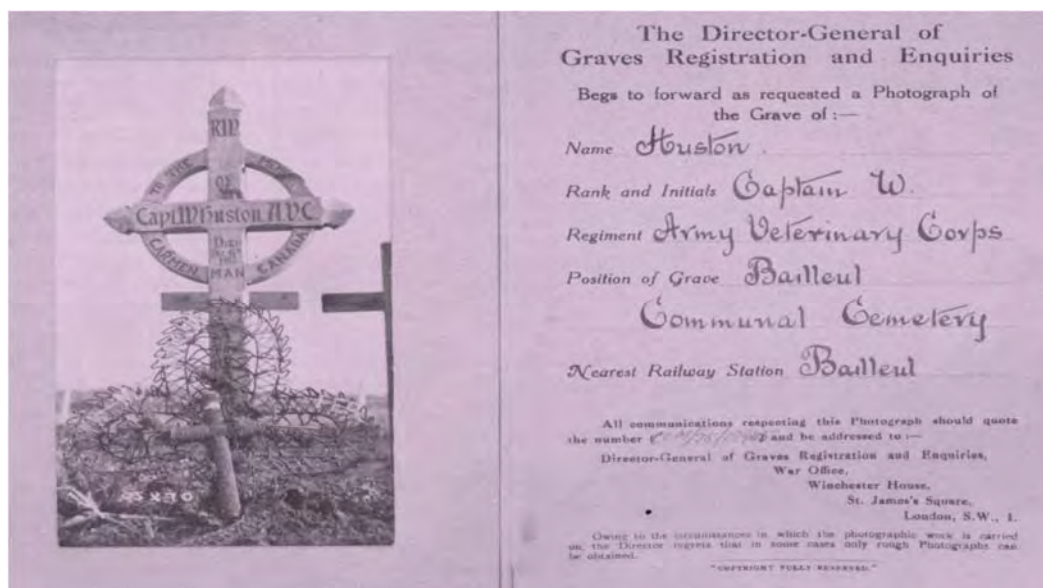


Tom Watson, Mrs. E. Watson, Leish Bruce, Edmund Watson in 1914. (*The Rural Municipality of Dufferin 1880-1980*, 263)

The combined population of the R.M. of Dufferin and the Town of Carman was approximately 4,000 in 1914. It is difficult to give accurate figures of war statistics because of the overlapping communities, however, there were about eighty local

young men killed in World War I. There is no available record of the wounded or handicapped. Also, we have no statistics for our region for World War II. Our loss cannot be imagined.

Those who returned soon set aside any adverse emotions and took up service to the community they fought to protect. Embraced in the comradeship of Carman Branch No. 18, Royal Canadian Legion, they gave uninterrupted support to sport and recreation, education, housing and health. Their dedication to a better life for all has inspired a generation that has never seen the blood of battle to formally join them in fulfilling their objectives.



Card with photograph noting the gravesite of Captain William Huston, a Carman-Dufferin man lost in World War I (*The Rural Municipality of Dufferin*, 269)



William Huston, the subject of the memorial card above (*Rural Municipality of Dufferin*, 265)

Memorial Hall

Built in memory of the men from Carman and Dufferin who fought in the name of Canada in World War I, the Memorial Hall stands on 2nd Avenue S.W. (Walnut Street) between Main Street and First Street S.W. The following news item was taken from *The Dufferin Leader*, October 2, 1919:

Large Crowd Attend Ceremony of Laying of Corner Stone of Memorial Hall **Major-General Ketchen Performs Ceremony**

One of the most impressive scenes witnessed in Carman for some considerable time took place Friday afternoon last, being the occasion for the laying of the corner stone of the Carman-Dufferin Memorial Hall by Major-General H.D.B. Ketchen, G.O.C. M.D. 10.

The day was most favorable for the occasion, although at one time a few heavy clouds passed over and threatened to mar the proceedings with a downpour of rain, but fortunately, however, this did not materialize.

Reeve Thos. Harrison acted as chairman during the ceremony, and, after the school children, who were singing of "O Canada," called upon Mayor J.A. Munn for the initial address of the afternoon's proceedings.

The Mayor, during the course of his excellent address, dwelt mainly on the construction and equipment of the hall, and will be of interest to many people, especially those who are yet in ignorance of the project.

The hall, which is being erected on the corner of Fournier Avenue and Walnut Street, is being built through the combined efforts of the citizens of Carman and Dufferin municipalities, in remembrance of the soldiers of the district who made the supreme sacrifice, and also as a place of recreation for the boys who have returned. The total cost of the building, which will be in the neighborhood of \$60,000, will be raised jointly by the municipalities of Carman and Dufferin, and will be raised by taxation.

The plan of the building is as follows:

Basement – The basement will be used as a gymnasium and dance room, and will be fitted with washrooms and shower baths, and will be used as a place of recreation for the young people of the district.

First floor – On this floor will be various rooms and offices. The main room on this floor will be the Memorial Room, in which will contain a large tablet on which will be inscribed the honor roll of the district, and will bear details of all the soldiers who left the district for overseas; this room will also contain relics and trophies of the war. The Blain Haverson Chapter of the I.O.D.E. will undertake the furnishing of the room. On this floor will also be the County Court room, municipal offices for Carman and Dufferin, council room (this room will also be used as headquarters for the local branch of the Great War Veterans' Association). There will also be a rest room, to be used as a social meeting place by the ladies of the district, and also to be a place of rest for the ladies coming in from the country. At the rear of this room will be a kitchenette. The ladies of the Homewood Soldiers Aid Society have undertaken the responsibility of the entire furnishing of this room.

Top Floor - The top floor will be used as an auditorium for entertainment, and will be fitted with motion picture screen. The seating capacity of the room will be between 500 and 600 people. The Soldiers Benefit Society will undertake to furnish this room, and there will also be two pianos which will be donated by the Torchbearers Club, one piano for the auditorium and the other for the basement. At the rear of the hall will be constructed a fire tower and apparatus. This is the complete outline of the building.

During his remarks, the mayor also made special mention of the splendid activities of the women's societies during the war. They had raised nearly \$26,000 for patriotic purposes and had knitted over 4,600 pairs of socks, which is undoubtedly a splendid record.

Although the district had a population of less than 3,500 people, over 500 of the young men went overseas, and 83 had made the supreme sacrifice.

Before the ceremony of laying the corner stone was performed, brief and interesting addresses were also given by E. A. August, M.P., H.E. Robinson, K.C., and Rev. Hugh Hamilton, who offered up a fitting prayer for contents of the corner stone box.



Memorial Hall. (*Rural Municipality of Dufferin*, 271)

After the school children had sung “Rule Britannia” came the most important part of the afternoon’s proceedings, the laying of the corner stone by Major-General Ketchen, during which he gave an eloquent and very appropriate speech. He said: “Memorials such as this one will remain as monuments to the magnificent traditions established by our fighting men. The building will assist in recalling the fact that our Canadian soldiers proved on many a hard-fought field the tenacity and courage of our race. I am sure I am speaking on behalf of the part the Canadian s played in the great world war.

“The gallant men who have fought and fallen – whilst they have illuminated with a fresh lustre the glory of the homeland – have also touched with new dignity the households they left for the battlefield. The whole British Empire owes them gratitude, and shares with their dear ones at home in the pride for their valor, and partakes with them in their grief for the fallen.

“Canada cannot forget the services rendered by her fallen heroes – they have displayed indomitable courage, calmness and perseverance in circumstances that often appeared desperate, also under circumstances which imposed a test of endurance as hard as any men have ever been required to bear. I am proud to say that they invariably bore these with an outstanding spirit of pluck and cheerfulness.”

The ceremony was brought to a close with the singing of the National Anthem.

After the laying the corner stone, the building proceeded. It is constructed of red brick and Manitoba limestone. In tribute to the Canadian soldiers who fought so valiantly in the horror of the battles of VIMY and MONS, these two names were engraved in stone blocks to be placed in the facade. During construction, Dr. H.C. Cunningham, when passing by, noticed that one block had been placed upside down and read SNOW. Upon advising the contractor in time, the correction was made. Over the double-door main entrance, a large, arched window of green, yellow and clear glass lights the staircase to the auditorium.

The Memorial Hall opening ceremonies were held on May 24, 1920. The Memorial Hall, in 1980, continues to stand firmly in the little park in the centre of town. It has withstood severe flooding of the Boyne River twice. The Veterans no longer meet in the room allowed them. The Great War Veterans' Association reorganized into the Royal Canadian Legion, Carman Branch No. 18, and built their own substantial accommodation. Annual Armistice (Remembrance) Day Services were held in the auditorium for about fifty years. The Great War Veterans' Association room is now the Council Chambers. Court is also held in this room on a regular basis, and it is rented out for various meetings.

Darlingford

Memorial and Loss

A passage in the local history book, *The Darlingford Saga* (1972) describes the background for the Darlingford War Memorial:

In August 1914, World War I came as a great shock to most of the civilized world. Recruiting depots were opened at both Morden and Manitou and in the next four years, almost one hundred young men left our district, some never return. In 1918, when the survivors began to return the loss of so many fine local lads intensified the feelings of both the folks at home and the lads who left some stout friends behind. At the very outset of the proposed Memorial it was stressed that it should be placed in memory of all who gave their lives for their country, unfettered by affiliation with any creed or cult, or even with the Municipality or the Provincial government – just Darlingford people – young and old alike. This has been adhered to as you will note.

The ground work was started in 1920 by several committees and by that grand old man, Ferris Bolton, who drove the first spike by donating the property, close by the school, so that all school children would see and memorize those three words “Lest We Forget” worked in stone in front of the Memorial Property.

Through some oversight in storing of the early records, we have no specific mention of the actual people involved but we do have a large minute book dating from 1923 [onwards]. To overcome the loss, we turned to any other sources available and an excerpt from the “Western Canadian” (Manitou) reports as follows: “It was on July 5, 1921 that the grand opening of the Memorial and dedication of the plaque of names of those who fell and “sleep in Flanders fields” as McCrea so aptly put it. The main speaker for the event was Sir James A.M. Aikins, the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba and himself the honorary Colonel of the 90th Winnipeg Rifles. To grace his arrival, a body-guard of lads from the Manitoba Mounted Rifles of Morden were waiting at our C.P.R. Depot and, after the customary ritual, the M.M.R.’s, together with the band, led the parade up to the newly completed grounds. Other speakers were the late Hon. J.L. Brown of Pilot Mound, member for Lisgar Constituency and, of course, the late Ferris Bolton and others. The rest of the afternoon was enlivened by three baseball games and races held on the school grounds close by. A fitting celebration to be sure.”



The 1921 dedication ceremony for the Darlingford War Memorial.

While prices were not so high in those days, it is understood that the actual cost of the building and legal fees, etc., came to well over \$5,000 and we do have one definite reference to finances. At the outset over \$1,200 was received in personal pledges and a like amount in cash. Naturally the rough labor was done gratis and all bills paid by a bank loan with the board men to roll up a "really big show" for the next year.

On July 12, 1923, a monster joint picnic and sports day was planned by joining forces with the Grand Orange Lodge. Pages could be written of this event but a few facts will have to suffice.

From the Minute Book we find the baseball tournament cost \$150 in prizes, etc. The band received \$34, bread almost \$20, meat \$150 (cooked ham came at 50 cents per pound), rent of dishes (used for meals served in rink) \$27.50 and so on to a total of \$1,100 paid out of which the L.O.L received \$115. The great news next day was that all indebtedness was paid off with \$220 to the credit in the bank account. Oh Darlingford, we stood on guard for thee that day.

The next problem was not so easily solved: planting grass, shrubs, trees and landscaping as well as endless hours of caretaking in the years that followed. We must mention that the entire layout was set up by the Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, and trees, etc., provided by them. If it

was not Dr. Leslie in that early beginning, it must be recorded that he often dropped by to keep a watchful eye on the many plantings and for many years was on call in case of problems.

One project that made this Park possible was the installation of a huge metal tank at the school to catch rain water, which was piped underground across to the park. Perhaps one of Manitoba's first pipe lines! It worked wonders.



The Darlingford War Memorial honours men of the 184th Battalion, including three sons of Ferris Bolton who never returned, with two of them circled in this photograph: Harry Bolton at the middle left and Bert Bolton at the far right.

To the late Mr. James Rice fell the task of caretaker and even though partially crippled he really took care of it all for several years, until his health forbade. The Darlingford ladies' groups also were often quite militant if the work got behind and joe'd hubby on to hit hoe-handle evenings. With the only revenue for upkeep coming from annual services, it is remarkable how even through those dry thirties the Park was always well kept. The other names of long standing service are the late Massrs, Dan Kelly, Griff Williams, and David Hunter.

From the very outset the hope was that an annual Remembrance Service at the memorial would involve the younger children. It was also stressed that it be kept as non-military as possible, with little pomp and show. To achieve this end a service was laid out where, after the formal opening, the list of names of those who did not return would be called out in pairs while two small children carried

up small bouquets of flowers to be placed on a large cross held for that purpose. The children then took up positions at the front also forming a cross. After the second war another was added. Many grown-ups in our district remember taking part in this ceremony in their tender years.

The names of 87 local persons of all ranks who served in the Great War are carried on the plaque.

Dauphin

Billy Barker

In the Dauphin local history, *Dogtown to Dauphin*, a passage describes the life of the great WWI flying ace, Billy Barker, a local boy:

Apart from the eighty-two men from the Dauphin district who died in service, no greater contribution was made to the war effort than that by “Billy” Barker, the son and grandson of pioneer Dauphin families.

Bill Barker was born in Dauphin Lake district in 1894. His grandfather came to the Dauphin area to live in 1888 and to ply his trade as a blacksmith. The blacksmith shop was located in Dogtown, a mile north of the present town. When Gartmore and Dogtown moved to the new townsite in 1896, George Barker Sr. became the first village mayor. His son, George Jr., married Jane Alguire in 1893. She was also the daughter of a pioneer family.

They farmed in the Dauphin area, and for a few years near Russell, Manitoba. George was a pioneer in the use of the new stream engines to run the threshing machines and to break the land. There was a family of nine children, seven sons and two daughters, amongst whom was William George Barker, an air hero of World War I of 1914-1918.

Bill Barker initially enlisted in a cavalry unit in 1915 but soon transferred to the Royal Flying Corps where he distinguished himself in action in France and Italy in the late war years of 1917 and 1918, flying Sopwith “Camels.” His exploits as a machine gunner in the air over the Somme, and as a fighter pilot along the Peavee river front in Italy, are legend.

He is credited with having destroyed fifty-two enemy aircraft and nine enemy balloons. He flew with #28 Squadron. He earned a Military Cross with Bar, a Distinguished Service Order and the Victoria Cross, presented to him by King George V in March of 1919.

He has been described as “the greatest of them all” by Edmund Crossgrove in “Canada’s Fighting Pilots.” Stephen Franklin, writing about heroes of the high skies says, “The most indestructible of all great Canadian air aces, however, undoubtedly was Major William G. Barker who flew a greater variety of sorties

for a longer period of time than any of his countrymen and won the Victoria Cross on October 27, 1918 in the most lop-sided air battle in history." The battle referred to took place about twenty-one thousand feet above Cambrai when Barker attacked a German reconnaissance plane only to find that nearby were three squadrons of German Fokkers, sixty planes in all. Before the battle was over Barker had downed five enemy planes, had suffered severe wounds in his right thigh, left leg and left elbow and had brought his bullet-riddled plane in behind allied lines. He himself was critically injured, dazed and bleeding.



William George Barker, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C. (*Dogtown to Dauphin*, 123)

Sadly, Billy Barker lost his life in an air crash over Upland airport in Ottawa in 1930 while he was test-flying a plane.

Dauphin

Reflections on the Great War

Passages in the Dauphin local history, *Dogtown to Dauphin*, describe local perspectives on World War I:

“The greatest war in the history of the world war is now in progress”, the editor of the *Dauphin Herald* wrote on August 6, 1914. He went to say, “In this war Great Britain is a participant. As part of the Empire, Canada is also at war and is ready to take her part in whatever way she may be called”.

While these sentiments well expressed the views of the great majority of Canadians, there were to be some dissenters. In any event, the statement defined the colonial view of Canada which was evident at the time.

This news of war was the first that many in the district had of World War I. News of previous months, at least in the local publications, contained few comments about forthcoming conflict. The realization of war seems to have come, in Dauphin’s case, to a largely unsuspecting populace. The *Dauphin Herald* of the previous week, July 30, 1914, made no mention of the possibility of war, nor had the newspapers of earlier months discussed such a possibility. Indeed, as late as March 26, 1914, the *Dauphin Herald* carried a news item reporting a speech by Philip Scheidemann, the first vice-president of the German Reichstag. Scheidemann was quoted as saying that “there will never be another war in Western Europe because working people are organized as socialists in opposition to war and are resolved not to fight each other at the command of their rulers”.

Scheidemann’s prophecy was inaccurate in all respects. Not only did war in Eastern Europe occur within a few months of his prediction but working men from all walks of life, both in Germany and the Allied countries, flocked to their flags to fight one another.



Dauphin Pioneers Banquet in the Pollon Block, 1916. (*Dogtown to Dauphin*, 128)

The response in Dauphin to the news of war was quick and spontaneous. Within the next week young men of the district were applying for service and by August 13, 1914, it was reported that Garth Johnston, Neville Munson, Frank Bumstead, H. H. Moore, E.C. Herrick and Neil Birss had made application to go to the front. By the end of August they were posted for training to Valcartier, Quebec and by early November some of these men were already on their way overseas.

War news and wartime activities began to occupy the major attention of the townspeople. War news dominated the newspapers. A great deal of what was written was propaganda intended to stimulate recruitment of young men and to encourage investment in war bonds for the national effort. Dauphin responded to these approaches to a high degree. By February, 1915 one hundred and eight men from Dauphin and district had enlisted.

There were reports of fierce battles in France and rumours that ten thousand men on each side had been killed. The rumours of the Kaiser's illness with pneumonia in late 1914, the "saving of Calais" by the British in April, 1915, the German sinking of the Lusitania by submarine in May of the same year, the battle of Ypres and the report of the use of poison gas in the trenches in 1915, all helped to spur the organization of patriotic groups, soldiers' welfare societies and bond drives. Recruiting was active and the war effort was carried on with fervour and sacrifices on the parts of many of Dauphin's citizens.

The intensity of the struggle in France appeared to increase through 1915 and 1916. Pages of news and reports of heavy fighting along all fronts continued throughout these years. Dauphin received the reports of injuries and death with the same degree of shock and determination that characterized all Canadian communities. There was a particular shock by such reports as occurred in January, 1916, when it was learned that four brothers were killed together in a bomb blast in France. Surely, war was hell.



The July 1, 1919 parade down Main Street, Dauphin. Baptist church in background, left. (*Dogtown to Dauphin*, 123)

January of 1917 ushered in a very cold spell as temperatures dropped to -40 degrees F. One hundred men from the Dauphin area had enlisted. There were reports of “wonderful fighting in the air” by Canadian members of the Royal Flying Corps, amongst whom was Bill Barker. Archie Chute and Jack Ramsden were leaving Dauphin for active service, one to report to his battalion, the other to enlist after having passed his law examination for entrance to the bar. Enlistment had so reduced availability of local labour that work on the Hudson Bay railroad ceased. Soldiers, as well as available townsmen, pitched in to help reap the harvest in the fall. Many Sunday church services became memorial services as the list of wounded, missing or dead, lengthened. As local citizens and organizations pitched in to help in the war effort, they were successful in over-subscribing all the war bond drives and in donating in liberal amounts to those who were sending clothes, cigarettes and treats to the men at the front and to the wounded in hospitals. Neighbour helped neighbour through crises resulting from the war action. But the struggle was long. As time elapsed news

came of Ypres, St. Eloi, the Somme, Arras, Hill 70, Lens, Amiens, Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele.

The speed of enlistment was not sufficient to keep pace with the number of casualties. Canada faced the knotty problem of conscription. By September, 1917, a "Win the War" meeting was held in Dauphin to support the cause of conscription. By October of that year conscription was a fact by dint of the Military Services Act, promulgated by the Borden Government. Exemption boards were established and young men, not already in service, began to receive their calls. Names of allowed and disallowed appeals against conscription were published weekly. In November a "First Victory Loan" was advertised with a 5.5% interest. Merchants of Dauphin urged to purchase of these bonds; the goal was one million dollars, to be raised in the northern districts of Manitoba. Dauphin raised four hundred thousand dollars. A committee consisting of J.W. Bossons, R.M. McCall, Dr. G.C.J. Walker and Thomas Little was established to take applications for service in the Royal Flying Corps. A Dauphin War Committee was very active in obtaining food supplies and in urging on the townspeople, conservation of all goods and materials.

At the Gary Theatre, local patrons were seeing such movies as "The Kaiser, Beast of Berlin" and documentaries of the Battle of the Somme. Coal was in short supply and local fuel merchants were advising citizens to "buy now or freeze." In August of 1918, the Governor-General, the Duke of Devonshire visited Dauphin; Charlie Chaplin was playing at the Gay theatre; and memorial services were being held for one of Dauphin's sons, Lieutenant Willis Code, whose father had brought Dauphin its first creamery.

Such were the valleys and peaks of Dauphin's emotional life.

Dauphin

War Memorial

In the Dauphin local history, *Dogtown to Dauphin*, a passage describes the unveiling of the Dauphin War Memorial:

At the local level, several matters of concern were settled in the decade of the twenties. After many meetings and considerable debate, a war memorial was unveiled on a rainy day in mid-June of 1924. Sir James Aikins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and John Bracken, Premier of Manitoba, attended the unveiling of a beautiful memorial column, topped by a nine-foot figure of Miss Canada and inscribed on two sides with the names of 82 Dauphin and District men who had fallen in the 1914-18 war. The inscription read "There Is No Wealth But Life – These Gave Their All". The memorial was paid for by public subscription and was contracted by Guinn and Simpson of Portage la Prairie, at a cost of \$5,500.



The Cenotaph, Dauphin. c. 1930. (*Dogtown to Dauphin*, 123)

Dropmore

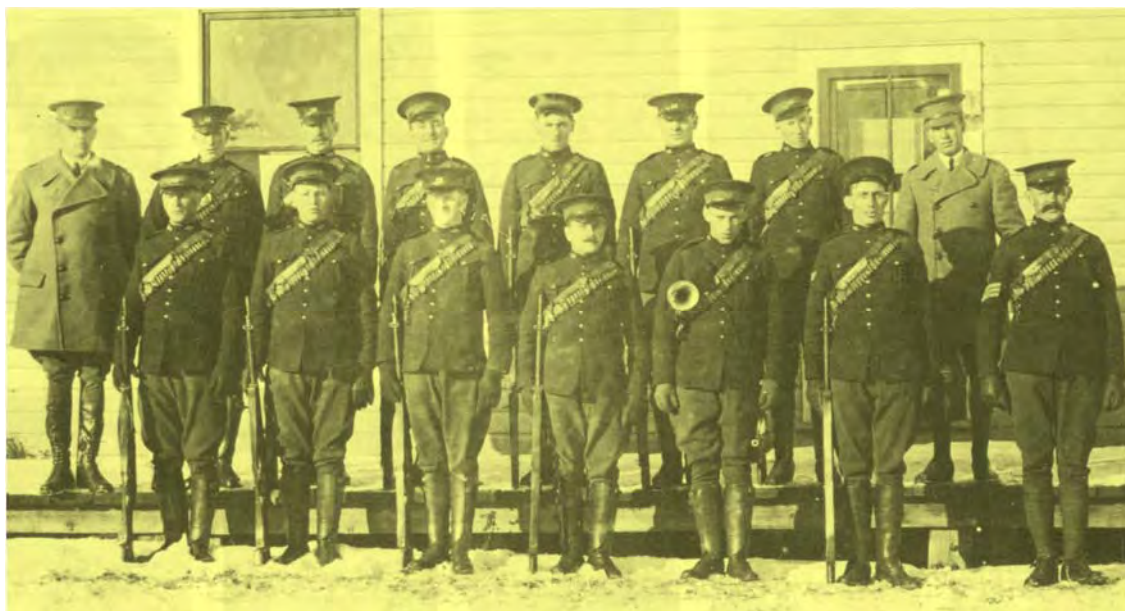
War Memorial

In the local history, *Memories of Roblin and Rural Districts*, Mildred Rawlings provides a description of the 1919 unveiling of the war memorial at Dropmore:

In 1919, the people of Dropmore and surrounding districts erected a ten-foot high, white marble, needle-stone memorial in memory of the boys who were killed in The Great War 1914-1918.

It was unveiled on May 24th by Mrs. Neville with Captain Selkirk in charge of the ceremonies. Three rounds were fired by A.H. Goodbun and J. Dugan, F. White, B. Bradley-Hunt, E. Pope and A.W. Brown represented the returned men, while Mr. Lewis hoisted the "Canadian Ensign."

The following men lost their lives in World War I: Ken Clarke, John Grey, Frank Hunt, Arthur Hunt, Ira Leflar, William Watson, Leonard Gyson, Hugh Heather, Ralph Neville, and Ernest Theobald; and in World War II – James Hunter was killed in action.



Soldiers of the First World War at Roblin (*Memories of Roblin and Rural Districts*, 134)

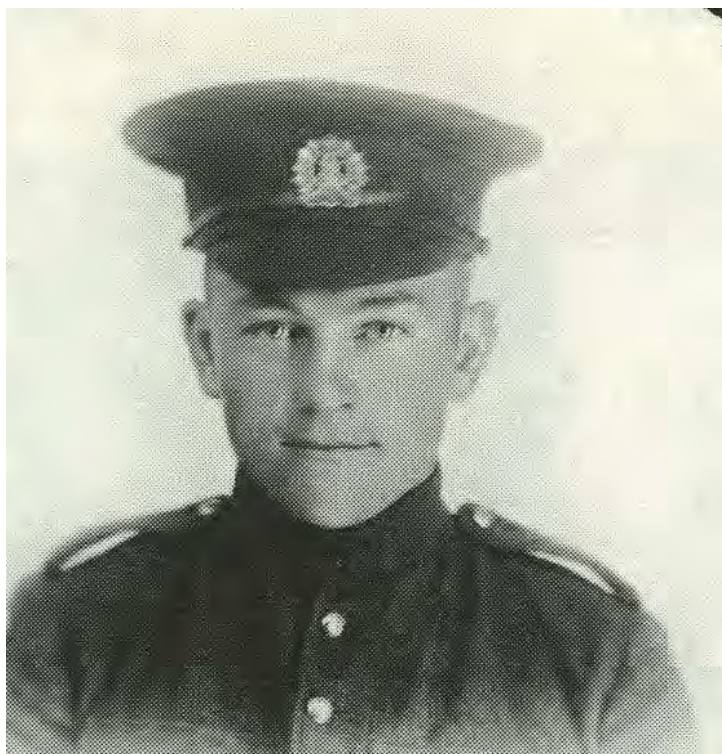
Eddystone

A Survivor's Tale

A passage in the Eddystone local history book, *Patience, Pride and Progress* (1983) includes the harrowing story of Jim Olafson, with the title, "The Empty Stretcher."

Margaret Cantelon interviewed a veteran of the First World War, and told his story in the first person. This veteran was her brother, Jim Olafson, a pioneer of the Reykjavik area:

I came out of darkness into a world of devastation. The memory of my last moment of consciousness was so vivid I was sure I was dead – looking back. The darkness was complete and there was stillness around me, although I could hear noises far off, harmless noises to me. I was dead. A blinding flash and it was all over, no pain.



Jim Olafson, the subject of "The Empty Stretcher."

Then I realized that I could see, the darkness was not all the same. I could move my eyes. Mounds and bumps, and I remembered we were in mud. I knew I was somewhere in France, and I knew I wasn't dead. I could feel the cold air on my face. Something was on top of me and I couldn't move. Nothing would move, only my eyes.

I wondered how long I had been there. My last memory, clearly my mind brought back the words of the sergeant as he had handed me the rum can: "Here, Jim, and take a snort yourself before you start off. You need it if anyone does. How you find your way about it in the mud I'm sure I don't know." But this was the very reason I had been chosen for this task – to take the rum ration to the boys out there somewhere in the swamp.

I was known as something of an expert on swamp travel, by night or day, for I had spent my boyhood in the marshlands of Lake Manitoba but here I was, at age 17, flat on my back, my swamp lore at an end. But I thought about it lying there in the mud, I even felt some pride in my craft. I was a scout, often sent out into No-Man's-Land to creep within listening distance of the enemy trenches. I always came back. My comrades said I had charmed life.

The words came back to me. I remembered somebody saying: "Jim, neither a bullet nor a German will ever get you, for a bullet will just slip off you, and you will always slip away from any German." Maybe he was right but there are more than bullets and Germans in the front line. It must have been an artillery shell that got me, maybe the first one to come over the night. It had been quiet and then suddenly nothing more to remember.

I could hear voices. I couldn't hear the words. Were they Germans? They were coming closer. Would it be the bayonet? Then I heard English words, men talking in subdued voices, stretcher-bearers; I could see their flashlights. I tried to shout and couldn't speak. But I could hear them – "I don't think there is anyone alive here . . . They're piled up on top of each other – poor fellows, they're out of their misery."

A tall man pulled the body from on top of me, and then another took a close look at me. I could see him but there was no recognition in his eyes. "Let's move on." somebody said, and suddenly I was afraid. They were going to leave me.

I could never tell you the agony and fear I felt – to be left in the mud alone. I had no way to express my frustration and desperation. I lay there in disbelief that it

was all to end this way. Then another voice said: "Look, this chap moved his eyes!"

They gathered around and put a flashlight on my face. Now I was paralysed – I couldn't move my eyes, and I just stared straight ahead into the light. Then hope within me died. They could see no movement. But I heard the same voice again, "I saw him move his eyes."

And then another voice added, "Let's take him anyway – we've got an empty stretcher."



The base of a war memorial as shown in the Eddystone local history book.

Gimli

The Cenotaph

The History of Gimli contains a reference to the development of the cenotaph:

To climax several years of planning, an attractive stone and brick cenotaph, in memory of the fallen in two World Wars and Korea, was erected by the branch on the centre strip on First Avenue, as their 1967 centennial project. Designed and built by a local artisan, Leonard Ciszewski, it was unveiled and dedicated in a solemn, simple ceremony as part of the Remembrance Day service on November 11, 1967.

Since then, the wreaths presented each Remembrance Day are laid at the Cenotaph, but most years the service is held at the Legion Hall, due to the coolness of the weather. For a year or so the service was held at Gimli Composite High School.

The Gimli Legion conducts the annual Poppy Day tag day on the Saturday prior to November 11, which has always been supported generously by the community. Proceeds help to employ handicapped veterans who make the wreaths and poppies. The Fund also provides emergency aid to families of veterans and servicemen when required.



In remembrance. (*The History of Gimli*, 355)

Gladstone

Photographs

The local history, *Gladstone Then and Now*, contains interesting images of the war memorial:



Gladstone Cenotaph (*Gladstone Then and Now* 1871-2001, 2)



Dedication of Gladstone Cenotaph, 1 July 1923 (*Gladstone Then and Now*, 2)

Hamiota

The War Effort at Home

In the Hamiota local history, *Grain of a Century*, Catherine Johnston collected some information about efforts on the home front:

Like most Canadian Communities, Hamiota and district rallied to help out the War Effort in both wars 1914-18 and 1939-45. War at its worst brings out the patriotism of a community at its best.

In 1915 the Ladies' Patriotic Society was active. Meetings were held in the basement of the Methodist Church. These ladies did sewing, knitting and packed parcels for Red Cross shipments to the military. They also shipped Christmas parcels to the Convalescent Home for soldiers in Winnipeg.

The boys and girls in the High School sent each of their soldier classmates a box of chocolates at Christmas.



World War I Parade (*Hamiota: Grains of Century*, 299)

In 1916, in an answer to an appeal through the *Echo* for food for returned soldiers in Winnipeg, the following was received – 37 sealers of fruit and pickles, 33 chickens, 1 duck, 3 turkeys, 2 Christmas puddings, 29 lbs. Butter, 10 lbs. Honey 6 Christmas cakes, 2 boxes cookies, 3 boxes candy, 200 lbs. beef and pork, 2 cans corn and 1 box cigars. Obviously, patriotism ran high.

On Wednesday, February 14, 1917, a Calico Ball was held in McConnell's Hall, with proceeds to be devoted to cotton dresses – wearing silk or chiffon was not allowed and a fine of 50 cents was imposed on those not wearing cotton. People donated money to a prisoner's fund," which was sent to the Prisoner-of-War Department of the Canadian Red Cross in London, England. In January 1917, \$25.00 war saving certificates were sold for \$21.50 - \$50.00 for \$43.00 and \$100.00 for \$86.00. Individual purchases were limited to \$150.00.

By December of 1917, the Ladies' Patriotic Society presented many unique ways of collecting money – concerts, teas, dances, a "foot measure" on pasteboard to be filled with dimes. They said "we must remember in this war, there are only two things to do – either FIGHT or PAY, and we who are paying are shouldering a very easy part of the burden". They bought field shirts for the soldiers in France, at \$1.18 each from the factory.

In 1917 women got the vote under special circumstances. "The qualifications for women voters were – the mother, wife, sister or daughter of any persons (male or female) who is serving in the military forces without Canada and in any naval force within or without Canada.



The 1914 boys on the march to the Cenotaph grounds (*Hamiota: Grains of Century*, 299)

Registration booths were set up in the public schools with the school teachers volunteering their assistance on Registration Day. People seemed to realize the need for co-operation in time of war. November 7/18 – talk of peace in the papers! Hamiota's quota for Victory Loans of \$225,000.00 went "over the top" to \$260,000.00. When the news of the Armistice reached Hamiota at 2 A.M. Nov. 14, 1918, people celebrated in a holiday fashion. On October 3, 1918, it was reported that Pte. Alex Brereton of McConnell had been in Oak River but resided for many years on his farm east of McConnell – a great honour indeed for the Private from McConnell and in reflection, for the community he represented. The war was almost over but a new enemy raised its head. In October 1918 public gatherings were banned due to the Spanish Influenza Outbreak – No Children's Aid Concert that year.



Memorial Day after W.W.I. (*Hamiota: Grains of Century*, 299)

Hartney

The View from Home

One of Hartney's local history books, *The Mere Living*, by Hazel McDonald Parkinson (1957), contains some vivid descriptions of a community's reaction to developing news of the First World War:

In Manitoba in August 1914 the crops were ripe and the harvest well begun. Interest was divided between garnering the grain and the news in our daily newspapers. War was so far from our experience that we had no conception of what its coming might mean.

The news that Britain had declared war on Germany flashed over the telegraph wires on August 4, to all the towns of the province. It spread to the townspeople and was telephoned to the farm homes. People were bewildered. Few realized how closely Canada would be involved although there was no question but that, if Britain were at war, we were at war too.

Day by day the newspapers reported the alarming story of the German advance through Belgium. Calls for recruits appeared in the papers. The *Hartney Star* for August 13 stated "There have been no decisive battles yet. There is a need for men, money and supplies to aid Motherland. Let us keep business and industry steady to preserve efficient aid." The August 29 issue of the *Star* reported "Terrible battle in Belgium. Britain loses 2,000 men. Namur occupied by Germans." A realization that this was a bigger war than our people had yet seen began to grow in our minds.

Early in September word reached Hartney that Chas. Fee, who had been working in Winnipeg, had joined the 79 Cameron Highlanders for overseas duty. Thus the first Hartney boy to enlist was the son of one of Hartney's first settlers. It seemed fitting that it should be so. Chas. Fee would see five years of fighting before his return to Canada.

In October, five men from the Hartney district enlisted: Russel Butchart, the first child born in the town; George Lumsden, a Scotsman who lived for several years in the district; Herbert C. Batty, another native son; C. G. Webb the Manager of the Union Bank at Hartney and C.A. Anderson who worked on a farm near that of Russell Butchart. Herbert Batty joined the 1st C.M.R.'s and the other the 27th

Battalion, all with headquarters in Winnipeg. C.G. Webb was discharged shortly after enlistment on medical grounds, but in 1917 was accepted with C.A.S.C. and served in France and with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine. Russell Butchart, C.A. Henderson and George Lumsden were with the Army of Occupation after November 11, 1918.

In December 1914 A.P.F. Singer and Henry Strickland from Barber District and Arthur Andrews of the Bethel Community enlisted in the 45th Battalion. All three were killed at the front before 1916 ended.

Stories of the fighting and suffering in Belgium filled the daily newspapers and spurred the citizens to do something to help. The Home Economics Society was the first to act. In September 1914 they instituted a fund for Belgium widows and orphans which they supported by a tea-room in the J.C. Callander store building, where the women took turns as hostesses each week, supplying tea, sandwiches, and cake or pie, to Saturday shoppers. In November the women allocated their receipts to the purchasing of blankets for the Belgians and reported \$119.50 received.

In July 1915, under the leadership of A.C. West and E.A. Eastwood, a Home Guard unit was organized, with representatives of surrounding towns meeting in Hartney for squad drill and target practice.

Shortly after its organization the leaders were informed that if fifty men were recruited in the locality they could become a unit of an overseas battalion, and could be billeted, and receive their preliminary training in their home district. The officers of the home guard met with the town council to discuss the matter and to secure a room for a local recruiting office.

Interest in enlistment was strengthened by letters received from Hartney boys already serving in France. The first such letter was from Pte. Wilmer McActer to his mother, and was printed in the *Star*. In it he described the grain fields of France and told that he was in the trenches and was determined to trust in the Almighty and keep his head down.

A letter from Pte. Herbert C. Batty to Rev. C. A. Blay four months later stated, "I am in the trenches up to my knees in mud. You would laugh if you could see me now. I have a pair of leggings made of sand bags to keep the mud from my legs. I look a tough bird but I'm happy as a lark, or a pig in a mud puddle. The country

is badly wrecked, but although there are graves in the fields, the farmers work their farms just behind the trenches as if nothing was going on."



Hartney War Memorial, 2011.

A letter that appeared in the *Star* in September 1915 was from a soldier who knew Robert Joslyn, the son of Rev. J.H.L. Joslyn, who attended Hartney School 1905-09. "Joslyn won the D.C.M. at Ypres, where, as a runner he was carrying messages from command headquarters to a forward trench after the telephone wires were down," he wrote. "I saw him after he'd made the run two or three times. His face was white for he knew he was facing death but he was determined to do his duty.

"I saw Joslyn last at an old house on April 25. I was sitting beside the house trying to bind up my wound. He saw me and told me to wait while he delivered a message and he'd help me to the dressing station, but we missed one another in the rush, as there was heavy firing and the enemy was advancing about two hundred yards en masse, and our boys were holding strong to the trenches and any shelter to take up the frontage.

"When I arrived back to the battalion from hospital ten days ago Joslyn was missing. The boys said the last they saw of him was when he jumped over the trench to make the charge on May 24. The boy next him saw him fall and put up his hand and say 'O Canada'."

Word reached Hartney that Pte. A. P. F. Singer who enlisted from the Hartney district in 1914, was killed at Ypres in June and that Pte. James Watt and Pte. Henry Strickland had all died in the Somme fighting in September.

On October 5, 1916 Lyall Rea, the son of D.W. Rea, was reported "killed in action" on September 19th, at the Somme. A letter from Pte. Jas. Watt, written just before his death, to Mrs. George Will, at whose home he was billeted in Hartney, said that he knew that Lyall was a prisoner of the Germans. This hopeful message was confirmed by an official telegram to Mr. Rea that his son was in German hands where he remained until the end of the war.

Early in 1917 Nurse Margaret McKie, the district nurse in Hartney, enlisted for overseas service. She saw nineteen months' service with the 9th Canadian Stationary Hospital in France before returning to resume her position as district nurse.

In April 1917, Pte. Howard Fry died of pneumonia in a hospital in France and after the severe fighting at Vimy Ridge, Sgt. Harry Brassine, Lc. Corp. Kenneth Ross, Pte. F. A. Peturson, Pte. Daniel McCuaig, Pte. Robert J. Gallinger and Cpl. Charles Walker were reported killed in action. Pte. Thomas Pettypiece and Pte. John Hardy died at Passchendaele before 1917 closed.

At the war's end Hartney district, including Lauder, had sent 261 men and one nurse to the forces, of whom 42 had died. The Hartney contribution to the Manitoba Patriotic Fund was \$1,791.65, and to the Red Cross \$5,979.58. The Soldiers' Aid Tea Room had raised \$10,839.46 while 18,111 sewn and knitted articles had been sent by the women of the district.

On May 29, 1919, a Returned Soldiers' banquet was held in the town hall. There were over five hundred people present including over one hundred soldiers with their wives and families. Reeve George Morrison was chairman; Professor Racine came from Souris to conduct an orchestra, and a speaker for the Great War Veterans' Association, that was in process of formation at the time, spoke on the aims and policy that body would pursue for the benefit of returned men. At the close of the program Rev. C. A. Blay presented a roll of honor to the town. This roll contained not only the names of men whose homes were in Hartney but those who had enlisted in Hartney, including the men of the 22nd battalion. In following years other organizations remembered those who fell in the war by the erection of various memorials. In April 1921 St. Andrew's Anglican Church unveiled a memorial tablet bearing the names of Kenneth Ross, W. Baker,

Charles Walker, J. Simmons, Fred Peterson, A.F. Singer, D. McCuaig, Fred Trevitt, William Cross, Fred West, T. Pettypiece, R.J. Gallinger, members and adherents who lost their lives. On this occasion Lieut. Colonel G.A. Wells, D.C.M. was the speaker and reminded the congregation of the sacrifice and service, not only of those who died, but of all who had served. A spray of flowers from returned men bearing the inscription "We'll never forget" was placed beside the tablet by T.P. Drew.



Detail of the Hartney War Memorial, 2011.

It was not until July 1, 1928, that a memorial shaft of granite, bearing the names A. Anderson, E.A. Eastwood, H. V. Fray, R. J. Gallinger, J. Hardy, H. Henderson, W.W. Irvine, W. Jackson, J.P. McCann, D. McCuaig, F.A. Peturson, T. Pettypiece, K.T. Ross, A.J. Slimmons, F.W. Trevitt, C. Walker and J. Watt was erected in the bandstand park on East Railway Street and unveiled at a solemn service. On that day a troop of the Manitoba Rangers under Captain Robertson of Souris, with members of the Canadian Legion from Souris, Wawanesa, Elgin, Virden, Boissevain and Reston, and all men of the Hartney district who had served in His Majesty's forces, marched from the bridge at the Souris River to the monument, led by a pipe band, and were drawn up as a guard of honour during the unveiling ceremony. Wreathes were laid by societies of the town and by next-of-kin and the "Last Post" was sounded. Similar ceremonies have been held each successive summer to commemorate Hartney's war dead.

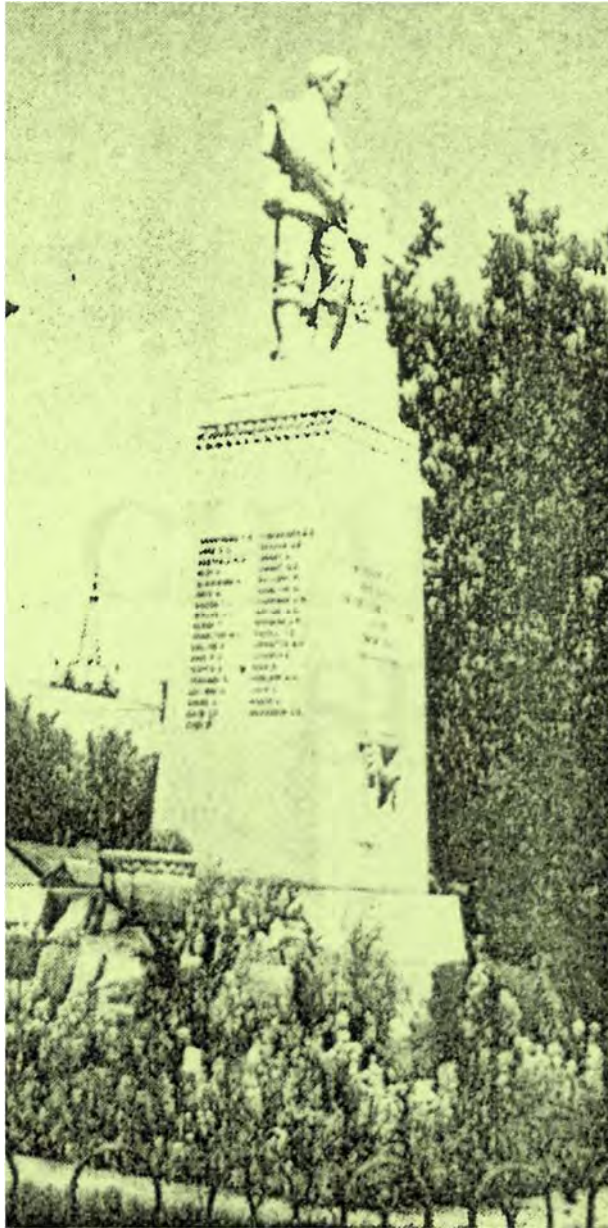
Killarney-Turtle Mountain Memorial

The local history, *Then and Now: A Condensed History of Turtle Mountain Municipality and the Town of Killarney*, contains the following observations about war and the creation of the local memorial:

The colonies joined in the fray (before the Commonwealth came into being) and Canada did a big job in preparing the finest of our men and also women to give assistance to the "Mother Country," as Britain was affectionately called in these days. Canada was linked up with Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans, and other members of this Commonwealth of Nations and fought the frenzied fanatics to a finish, after having so gallantly rushed to the help of down-trodden European masses which were nearly brought to their knees by a brutal, barbarian band of brigands, as the forces of the Kaiser proved themselves to be until their arrogance was beaten to the dust.

On November 11th, 1918, the hostilities came to a halt, but the sacrifice had been great and among the casualties were a great many Killarney young men, many of whom enlisted of their own free will and at a tender age, some just out of their teens, others barely so. The list of those who did not return to their homes here will be noted at the end of this "Jubilee Tribute to Their Memory." Some too returned to us maimed and broken in health, of these a number have passed to their heavenly reward, while a few are still with us as a reminder of those poignant days, 1914-1918.

Spurred on by the tragedy the First World War brought to Turtle Mountain and Killarney (nearly 100 lost their lives in it) from this area, stout hearted residents, including many who are still resident here, banded together to create some suitable memorial. The response to their call for funds was good and resulted in the erection in 1920 of the outstanding cenotaph which graces the front of Killarney's town hall. The committee handed this over to the town as its caretaker, after the unveiling. Here the annual memorial service is held and residents of town and district still assemble in goodly number to place their floral tributes and offer testimony of their great regard for fallen warriors.



Killarney War Memorial. (*Then and Now: A Condensed History of Turtle Mountain Municipality and the Town of Killarney*, 1957)

Manitou Photographs

A History of Manitou and Area contains two important photographs



Memorial on the SW corner of Main and Park (with additional tablets from World War II). This beautiful monument was erected jointly by Manitou and Pembina and was one of the first of its kind in Manitoba. (*A History of Manitou & Area*, 138)



Death notice for Corporal. Wm. Hodgson. (*A History of Manitou & Area*, 142)

Mariapolis

Letters Home

The Mariapolis local history book, *Echoes of Our Heritage* (1991), contains samples of letters sent home from the front, and even one from a mother to the Minister of Agriculture and Immigration:

When Great Britain declared war in 1914 against Germany, Canada immediately took steps to aid the British War effort. The first Canadian soldiers landed in France in February 11, 1915. Canadian soldiers played key roles in places like Vimy Ridge, Ypres, Arras and Mons.

The soldiers life in the trenches of Europe was often a very difficult one as is shown but the following excerpts from a letter printed in *La Liberté*. The date is November 3, 1917. The letter is from Henry Trudel of Mariapolis, a private with the 78th Battalion, stationed in France.

"Dear parents.

.... I believe that you have learned that I was wounded by a blast of shell fire, on my left knee and also to my head. These are not serious injuries...we marched 3 miles to get to the Red Cross under a storm of shells. From there we took the Red Cross train. It took several hours to get to the hospital Here, it rains every day. We are in the mud up to our butt. The cold in Canada is still better than the weather here . . . *Will this terrible nightmare ever end?*

From your son who thinks of you always in his prayers. Kisses to the whole family,

Henry."

Another letter dated July 20, 1918 from the same Henry Trudel.

"Dear parents,

I believe that you have already heard that I was gassed the night of my birthday, July 22. After several days of rest, we took the train to go to the battlefield. All went well for several days, when one night, while we were digging a trench, at about 11 o'clock, the Germans bombarded us with shell fire and gas and all sorts of shells imaginable. We had to leave the area and walk two miles with our gas

masks. Everything was going pretty well until the next morning when we became sick and blind. I lost my sight for 5 days . . . one morning I saw daylight next to my little nurse whom I had never seen before. Several soldiers of my battalion are here because of the same incident.

Your son who loves you always,
Henry.”



Archie Joseph Arthur Charette – Enlisted and joined the 21st Battalion overseas and was a victim of mustard gas poisoning from which he suffered until his death in 1942. (*Echoes of Our Heritage: Mariapolis and District 1891-1991*, 213)

In Canada the war effort kept everyone working hard to help the families of the soldiers with physical and moral support. Canada was truly the bread basket of the world. The farmers could sell everything they grew at a good price. Things are never as simple as they seem however and so it was with grain production. The crop of 1917 was not bountiful. The plight of the families left to work the land is shown by the letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Immigration from a Mariapolis mother begging for the return of her son to help on the farm. It is dated June 11, 1918.

"Dear Sir,

I am not educated but my heart will speak for me. I write to you to beg of you to give me back my son. He is my only support and he has sowed 200 acres which will be lost if I cannot get him back for at least 6 months . . . I cry to you, let my son come back for 6 months. Take pity on me for it means ruin for myself, him and my two other young children . . . I am a widow and my case is certainly a deserving one.

Hopefully yours,
Hermine Desrochers
(My son is Albert)"

The newspapers printed articles asking for contributions for the Red Cross and for the Tobacco Fund. "For every 25 cents you contribute to Canada's tobacco fund some soldier on active service will receive a large package of Canadian Manufactured Tobacco regularly priced at \$1.00." Sugar was in short supply as was fresh fruit. Reported in the December issue of both *Baldur Gazette* and *La Liberté* papers, Mr. August Delichte did a door to door appeal to collect shin plasters (\$.25) to buy flour destined to help the Belgium War Victims. He collected the great amount \$200.00

Melita

Local Military Life

Our First Century, the local history for the Town of Melita and Municipality of Arthur, contains these extracts concerning local military life, and of the unveiling of the war memorial:

The "C" Squadron was first formed in Melita in April, 1908 with Lieutenant G. W. Archibald in charge. In 1909 the "C" Squadron 12 Manitoba Dragoons under Captain J.G. Rattray gave a good account of itself at brigade camp in Brandon: drill riding – 90; outposts – 85; horse Q & C – 95; care of horses and saddlery – 90; care of lines – 90; dress and discipline – 85. Best shot badge was won by Corporal Williams of Melita.

The first annual Military Ball in Melita on February 19, 1909 was a great success as were those to follow. In 1910 the Melita Department changed districts. What was to be known as the 20 Border Horse was being organized. This was to include troops from Reston, Pipestone, Melita, Weyburn, Estevan and Carnduff. Major Rattray was promoted to Colonel. In March of this year "C" Squadron of the Twelfth Melita Dragoons became "A" Squadron of the 20 Border Horse. Through 1914 the annual camp was attended at Sewell.

In 1911 Lieutenant Archibald became Major and the squadron was considered to be part of one of the smartest militia cavalry regiments in Western Canada. In August, 1914 the Melita Department sent out instructions for volunteers to leave for the east. A large number of citizens and the band assembled at the station to wish them godspeed. In November 1914 an impromptu farewell was arranged by leading citizens for local departing members of the second contingent.

In 1921 Tom Ring visited Melita trying to organize the 20 Border Horse and in 1924 several members of Melita attended Camp Hughes. In 1925 "The Black Cat" premise was being fitted up for an armoury for B Squadron Border Horse in command of Captain Art Ross. Captain Ross, Schnell, Snedden and others attended a Border Horse function at Virden in December. In 1926 the annual banquet was held at the Palace Hotel, with Virden, Elkhorn, Oak Lake, Lauder and Melita represented. The camp was moved from "Hughes", 10 miles south, to Shilo in 1935. Captain Schnell, A. And R. Lawson and George Dowse were in training at this new camp in 1935.



Melita Dagoon, 1910. (*Our First Century: Town of Melita and Municipality of Arthur*, 171)

Cadet Corps 1914-1916

On June 14, 1914 Colonel E. A. C. Hosmer, Virden, Commissioner of Cadets was in Melita officially. A cadet corps was formed here at that time with Rev. Forbes Robertson in charge. The boys received training and drill in the evenings when they held their meetings. The boys spent two weeks at camp in Sewell in July, 1914 and they presented a drama at the Opera House in October to raise funds. In December 1915 the boys placed fourth in the Award of Strathcona Trust for drill and efficiency. This brought a grant of \$35 to the cadets. In the following year Mr. Eadie and Mr. Moore, both qualified instructors assisted Rev. Roberston.

Soldiers of the Soil – 1915

March 18 – Mr. Paris was appointed enrollment officer here. Messrs. Lamont, Estlin and Duncan were on a committee to look after placement of the boys with farmers and to see to their welfare. Boys between 15 and 19 years were eligible. In this way 25 or 30 thousand youthful helpers assisted in keeping the Imperial bread basket full. Some who enlisted were Joe Donahue, Howard Kenner, Ernest Oxley, Douglas Sturgeon, Tom Park, Tim Oberlin, James Garrett, Fred Estlin, William Dingwall, George Pitcher, Frank Graham, Harold Edwards, Borden Dobbryn and Clair Heath. Badges were awarded after three months of service.

Victory War Loans

Victory War Loans were organized by The Dominion Government. On November 1, 1917, a Victory War Loans Committee was set up in Melita. This committee consisted of: President, John Williams; Secretary, A.B. Estlin; and committee members J.H. Kenner, R. Sterling and F. Walker. In 1940, a Victory War Loans Program was again established. All elevators in western Canada and theaters sold war saving stamps. Unit 37 included the Rural Municipalities of Arthur, Edward, Albert and Brenda plus the village of Napinka and town of Melita.

Memorial at Central Park

The plans for the Memorial at Central Park were approved by all concerned in July, 1931. The main base of the cenotaph was to be 10 feet square, two smaller squares to be on top of this before the memorial shaft, nine feet in height and four feet wide is erected. Marble panels with the names of those who died in the Great War will grace the sides of the shaft. Cinder walk will lead to the north east and south west corners of the grounds with a drive way from the cenotaph to wrought iron gates on substantial posts of Manitoba field stone at Oak and Summit corner. Flower beds will be placed at intervals throughout the park. Cost was about \$1,100.

The War Memorial Dedication took place November 11, 1931 with Mayor Lamont, Lieutenant-Colonel Clingan, E. Willis M.L.A., Hon. D. L. McLeod. Reeve McCallum (Arthur), Reeve Hartry (Branda), Revs. Franklin and Lee, and W.R. Cosgrove Secretary Treasurer, Napinka on the platform. This cenotaph was rededicated to the memory of those who gave their lives in World War II, 1939-1945.

Miniota

War Memorial

An entry in the local history for the Rural Municipality of Miniota, *Bridging the Years*, focuses on the war memorial:

The first community Memorial Service was held in the Miniota Hall, presided over by Reeve Mitchell. The music was led by the Miniota Band, and the offering was donated to the Miniota Memorial Fund. These services were then held annually.

In August 22th, 1926, over two thousand persons attended the Memorial Service and the unveiling of the Cenotaph, which made it the outstanding event in the area. It was presided over by Reeve Mitchell. The church choirs of the district performed. The outstanding feature of the service was the unveiling of the Soldier's War Memorial, erected by the citizens of the municipality to the memory of those who enlisted and sacrificed their lives. The duty of unveiling was undertaken by the Officer commanding Military District #10: Major General H. D. B. Ketchen. The District Padre read the Honor Roll which included forty-one names.



Cenotaph (*Bridging the Years: Rural Municipality of Miniota*, 47)

For several years during the Thirties the Brandon Salvation Army Band, with Bandmaster Sergeant Major George Dinsdale M.L.A., and sons Walter and Harold, headed the parade and supplied the music. Also taking part in the parade were flower girls representing the Sunday Schools of the municipality, Miniota Brownie Pack, Girl Guide Company and Birtle and Miniota Boy Scouts. The band also held a concert on the Sunday evening which was well attended.

Over the years many of our Veterans have passed on, and there is a decreasing number left to take part in the service honoring comrades. Services are still held annually with the combined church choirs in attendance. Lunch is served to the Veterans and their families after the service by members of the Women's Institutes of the Municipality.

"Whatever their own philosophy, these men died for us. Memories mean responsibility – not just to reassure the past but to conquer the future. There can be no greater tribute than to crown the sacrifice of war with the abiding victory of peace. This is not someone else's responsibility, but ours – yours and mine."

Minnedosa

Local Soldiers

In the Minnedosa local history, *Minnedosa Valley Views*, various passages suggest the activities of local men in service:

With the exception of Armistice Day and Memorial Day, we tend to forget our servicemen and women. Generations are growing up not knowing of the sacrifices made by these men and women. The following chapter will present the information available to us in our effort to record Minnedosa's contribution to these efforts.

Following declaration of war in August, Major Dyer was requested to hold his company in readiness and before the month passed they were off for more training at Valcartier, Quebec, Rev. Wells with them. By September, a second Minnedosa group joined them.

Troop trains began passing through Minnedosa going east. First Canadian killed in action was a cousin of E.O. and a committee of Mesdames Andrew, Mellor, Cannon, Gugin, Drummond and Miss Shaw sprang up.



Minnedosa Soldiers off to War -1914. (*Minnedosa Valley Views*, 88)

By October Minnedosa troops were aboard the *Lapland* en route to Salisbury Plains, England. Lt. Robin Harrison continued recruiting more men at home. Dyer and Wells kept the folks here informed on Minnedosa troops overseas throughout the war.

In December, after a farewell dance, a large group left Minnedosa as part of the 32nd Battalion; 75 more recruits still training here. Charlie Roar began buying horses for the Army. By February 18, 285 men from Minnedosa and immediate district had enlisted. The 75 recruits, together with men from Brandon, Souris, Dauphin, and Virden, became part of the 45th Battalion. Minnedosa's first white resident, Al Scouten, tried to enlist from Riding Mountain but was rejected as too old.



Minnedosa Soldiers -1914 (Photo from *Minnedosa Valley Views*, 88)

Letters from men at the Front arrived. Frank Sewell writes from France that German biplanes try to bomb them every morning. Major Dyer is seriously wounded in Belgium while carrying a message when lines are down thereby 'saving thousands of Canadian lives' and gets a DSO; later a CMG and CB. Basil Ewens and Lt. F.R. Elliot have died of disease and exposure.

Wounded in spring 1915 include Cpl. Henry Dunbar, John Attenborough, machine gunner Cpl. (later Lt.) W.J. Burgess at Festubert, John Rogan, W. Ramsay, George Sparling, Lt. F.M. Davies, George Wollrow, Sgt. Ernest

Constable, James Lamont, Ed Hodgson, Lt. R.L. Denison, John White. George Sparling describes his platoon 'mowing down with rifles and machine guns' a mass formation of charging Germans at 60 yards. Dyer describes Minnedosa and other Canadian soldiers holding fast when German gas rolls in while others like those of France panic and flee.

First Minnedosa soldier killed in action was John Comrie in March, followed several weeks later by Harold Hulbert; soon after, G. Black, George Holder, Cyril Hunsley and A.M. McNair.



Cpl. Logie Cutchart. (*Minnedosa Valley Views*, 87)

D.A. Gill is one soldier killed that fall. Cpt. E.C. Jackson gets a DSO and J.H. Lindsay a DCM; Dyer writes his battalion has acquired the nickname 'the Fighting Fifth.'

At home, persons with German and Austrian backgrounds are refused Canadian citizenship at the courthouse, soldiers training at the armoury enter the 226th and help with seeking before going overseas. A homeguard again operates and Minnedosa Patriotic Association helps the federal government register all persons in the area. Many families are deeply involved in the war. By May, 1916 the H. McLeans have four sons in the service, James McKays and F. Greens three,

Mrs. E.O. Denison, Mrs. S. Fairbairn, C. McQuarries, Ed. Pearsons, Grovers, T.Donlons, J. Burgees', Mrs. Sewell, A.J. Bells, W. Wrights, John McQuarries, two, and many with one. Wounded during the first half of 1916 include Harold Fairbairn, Harvey Foster, T.L.O. Legion of Honor; Ed Wolf killed in action.

One local woman at the Front was nurse Lulu K. Walker.

Eric Pearson who has just received a bullet through the chest in the Battle of Courcellette when the 5th 'went over the top.' 'The Somme's some lace alright.' Flt. Lt. Stanley Kerr adds, "I think every one of the 37 who came from Minnedosa have been knocked out." Wounded include Lt. Harry Dyer, P.M. Kinney, E.S. McQuarrie, E.A. Chandler, Younger, Sgt. J. Sangster, Bryden, Alex Coote, Wm. Devlin, Harvey Rea, 'Scotty' Stevenson.



Minnedosa Armoury (*Minnedosa Valley Views*, 89)

Minnedosans pioneered in the air war in what later became the Air Force. These included W.J. Burgess, who transferred from the Army, Stanley Kerr, Frank McArthur, G.T. Turley, Vernon Dixon Lawrence Roche, M. Bigg. Con Farrell, who listed his hometown as Minnedosa, enlisted before he was of age and flew in the same unit as 'Wop' May with whom he became close friends. Former Minnedosan W.G. 'Billy' Barker of Dauphin became a world famous ace by destroying 50 German planes, winning the VC, DSO, MV. Another former resident, Cpt. Sutherland Stewart, was shot down in flames, survived but died in Egypt in 1920.

Following conscription, of 175 men registered at Minnedosa post office in November, 132 claim exemptions. For families like one with seven sons of whom one was killed in the Boer War, two already in this one, two now in trenches and another just enlisted, such attitude seems intolerable.

Suddenly the terrible war's over. Minnedosans flock to a united service of worship in the armoury 'to return thanks to Almighty God for bestowing victory and peace on us.' When the joyous news came over the wires at 2 a.m. to get everyone out of bed, 'pandemonium reigned supreme. Whistles were blown, bells rang, Roman candles burned and firecrackers exploded without number, the noise getting farmers up for miles around. During the day the greatest procession of automobiles ever seen here, gaily decorated with flags and streamers, went through several streets. A band of music was secured. Kaiser Bill was burned in effigy, and field guns were brought into action.' As the troops came home, a special welcome celebration ceremony's held in the Lyric theatre.

Minto

The Memorial Hall

A passage in *Minto Memoirs 1881-1979* describes in detail the November 29, 1921 opening of the Minto Memorial Hall:

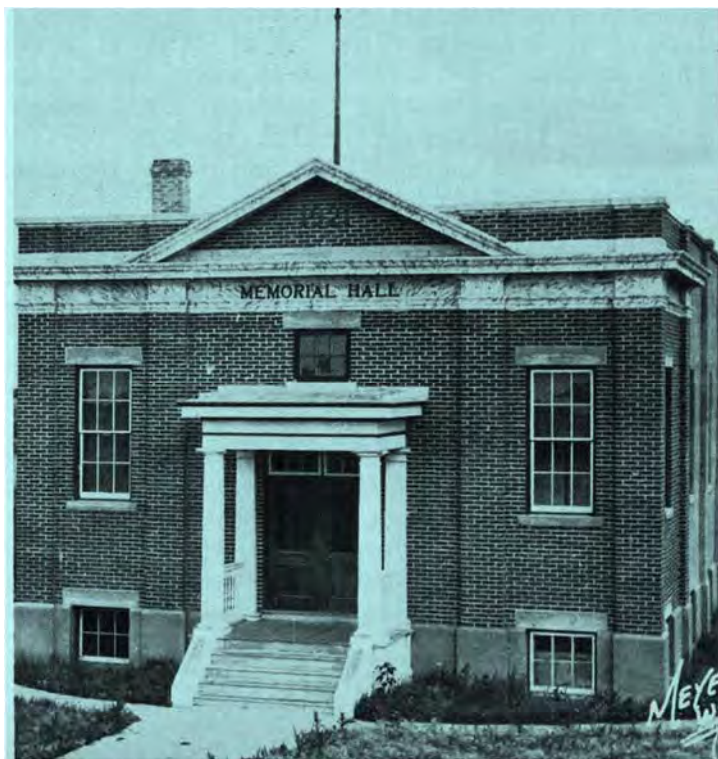
Great deeds deserve due commemoration, and the district with Minto as its centre, flocked on Tuesday last to the new Memorial Hall, to pay tribute to its glorious dead. Fully four hundred people were crowded into the auditorium to witness the unveiling ceremony and hear the dedicatory address.

Promptly at 3 o'clock, Sir James Aikins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, followed by Dr. Finley, M.P. and Mr. George McDonald, M.L.A., entered the hall and were accorded a great ovation. Mr. McDonald occupied the chair, and did not waste any time in opening the proceedings. The first item on the program was the singing of "O Canada." The chairman in his opening remarks, congratulated the people of Minto and district on their splendid achievement, and complimented the committee in charge for the efficient manner in which they had terminated their efforts.



James Albert Manning Aikins, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba 1916 to 1926.

Dr. Finley then spoke along patriotic lines, and recalled the gallant deeds performed by our Canadian soldiers in France. Then came the unveiling of the Memorial Tablet, which is a magnificent piece of bronze, and a genuine work of art. The tablet was set upon a raised dais on the stage, draped with the Union Jack. The dedicatory sentences pronounced by Sir James Aikens were most impressive, and at a given signal from Sir James, two returned soldiers, in uniform, raised the veil and the beautiful tablet was exposed to public view for the first time. Those who paid the supreme sacrifice and bronze are: John Abbott, David M. Calderwood, Alistar Girg, Sidney Halliday, Charles Lovat, James Meek, Alfred McLatchie, Elmore Pringle, David Ribbons, Zachariah Sheppard, Thomas Tyreman, Norman Waddell, James Wark, Lawrence ward, Harold White, Angus McIntyre.



Minto Memorial Hall, ca. 1925. (*Minto Memoirs 1881-1979*, 47)

Sir James called the roll, and in answer to each name a floral spray was placed at the foot of the tablet by the school children. Then a choir of 25 voices, directed by W.F. Carter, sang Kipling's "Recessional"; Mrs. Blakely at the piano. This ended the unveiling ceremony.

Sir James then launched forth into one of the most stirring addresses ever heard in Minto, he eulogized the members of the C.E.F. and as compared with the heroes of the past, our "Tommies" were the greatest heroes of all time. In speaking of those who rest in Flanders Field, Sir James said: "that no matter what their shortcomings in civil life might have been, they had accomplished a purpose, and thereby proved themselves the very highest type of manhood."

"Great as may have been our achievements, loyal as may have been our hearts, glorious as may have been our sacrifices, the gallantry and unselfish devotion of our men would mean little indeed to the generation yet unborn, had no cost been made to preserve their memory, and Minto has every reason to be proud of its beautiful tribute to its fallen heroes."

The Minto orchestra, under the direction of W. Oliver, very ably assisted in the dedicatory services.

Moline

Plaques and Cairn

The local history for Rapid City and area, *Our Past for the Future* (1978), provides some observations about local honour rolls and the war memorial:

Immediately after World War I the Moline Womens Institute erected an Honour Roll for the men of the community who had served in the war. Mr. Harry Fulcher of Rapid City was hired to make a wooden plaque and have the names printed on the plaque. This was built of oak lumber. The top and sides were shaped to give a pleasing effect. This Honour Roll was placed on the front wall of the Moline Church behind the pulpit and altar where it could be viewed by all.

Following World War II the community wished to have another Honour Roll. They were fortunate to be able to obtain Mr. Harry Fulcher's services – now semi-retired – to make a plaque to match the one of the first war. When this was completed the two plaques were placed in an attractive setting at the front of the church.



The Honor Roll of World War II also made by Harry Futcher of Rapid City (*Rapid City and District: Our Past for the Future*, 150)

When the church closed in 1972 the Honour Rolls were moved to the Moline Community Centre and placed on the south wall of the south room.

On the same day of the Moline Co-op 50th Anniversary – June 27, 1964 a ceremony was held to unveil a cairn recently built by the community on the N.W. corner of the townsite on Sec. 8-14-20. This cairn was dedicated to the memory of the men in the two World Wars 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. Also to the memory of the pioneers of the district from 1878 and on. This cairn was financed by money from the sale of the Moline Rink and the one plaque was bought by the surplus of money raised to send boxes to men overseas.



Cairn at Moline, unveiled 27 June, 1964 (*Rapid City and District: Our Past for the Future*, 150)

The cairn was unveiled by Mrs. James (Edith) St. John and Mrs. Fred (Agnes) Yorke. Rev. Victor Bowins offered a prayer of dedication for the cairn and gave a short address. Mrs. George (Mary) Underhill placed a wreath at the cairn in memory of the members of the services that had paid the supreme sacrifice in the two World Wars. To conclude the ceremony Donald Gilchrist of Rivers – on the bugle sounded the Last Post.

Neepawa

A Calendar's Story

The Neepawa local history, *Neepawa Land of Plenty*, contains a brief passage from Mr. John Graham:

This 1917 calendar was saved by my wife Edith, and now hangs on my wall in East View Lodge. It is a cloth calendar and is precious because it reminds me of my brother-in-law Private R.E. Jones who enlisted in the 181st Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force on January 1, 1917 and of my brother Private Sam Graham of the 226th Battalion C.E.F. Neither of these young men returned to the home fires which their families kept burning.



The Way It Was – A Calendar's Story. (*Neepawa Land of Plenty* 1883-1983, 221)

Oak Lake

The Cross of Sacrifice

In the Oak Lake and area history, *Ox Trails to Blacktop*, an entry describes the origins of a local Cross of Sacrifice:

The members of the Women's Institute had always been involved in the upkeep of the cemetery. This seemed to be their special project and they and their husbands did hours of work out there. Their idea was that a suitable memorial to the men killed in World War I should be placed at the cemetery, not in town.

In 1922 they obtained a plot in the cemetery and had a flagstaff erected there. The Union Jack was flown from the flagstaff and a very impressive dedication ceremony was held on Remembrance Day that year.



The Cross of Sacrifice when it was in Oak Lake Cemetery, 1932 (*Ox Trails to Blacktop*, 104)

In 1923 the ladies canvassed the women of the town and district raised enough money to have a monument, "The Cross of Sacrifice" was built. Messrs. J. Daum, T.J. Smith and J. Rozell did the work. The Cross of Sacrifice was placed in the

cemetery, in front of the flagstaff erected the year before. For years after that, the Memorial Day services were held at the cemetery.

In the late 1930s the Cross of Sacrifice was moved to the town park. In 1972, the property was sold and the monument was moved to the yard of the Legion Hall.

Pipestone

War Memorial

The local history, *Trails Along the Pipestone*, includes a section devoted to the war memorial and park:

The museum which stands on the grounds is another story but the history of Reston Park has its foundation on the war memorial for which it was to be a fitting background. The monument is of Italian marble and it is topped by the figure of a Canadian soldier. The cost, when purchased, was \$3,600.

It was unveiled by Sir James Aikins, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, on June 30, 1922. Dr. Chapman read the names inscribed and the address was given by Lloyd Armstrong. The agenda stated that a parade then proceeded to the chautauqua tent where addresses were given by Sir James Aikins, Dr. Clingan M.P.P., Colonel Rattray, and John Williams M.P.P.



Memorial statue Reston Park (*Trails Along the Pipestone*, 1981, 418)

Since then, memorial services have been held yearly on the spot. The treed arbor or grove where these services, and also family picnics, are held was originally a filled-in slough and it was landscaped in 1923. There are also picnic tables and electric wiring there now.

In 1915, bronze plaques were added to the monument. These were paid for by donations. Previous to this, the monument had only the names of First World War victims, one half on each side. As the monument is a very light grey, these did not show up very well so the decision was made to put on the plaques. Inscribed in the bronze on one side are the names of the twenty-three First Great War victims and on the other side the names of the seventeen from World War Two.

The flag staff was donated by the Women's Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion Elizabeth Branch. It was made by Vulcan Iron Works Supply from second hand piping. It sits in a cement base with the date of erection and the donor name on the bronze plaque.

Alf Archer received no salary. At an annual town meeting, it was moved that he be given \$100 a year, not as salary, but as a donation in appreciation of his services. At different times, this was raised and, in the last years, it was \$400. In 1962, the Manitoba Horticultural Society honored him by making him a life member and the local park board followed suit with a surprise presentation of a purse of money.

It was felt that something more should be done to honor this man who had taken the lead in making this village park a spot about which a local tribute said, "there is not a spot to equal it anywhere in the western part of the province, for a place of its size." So in 1967, money was collected and a memorial gate was erected at the west entrance to the park.

The plaque faces the street and the wording on it reads: "Erected in memory of Alf Archer who gave with complete dedication of his time and talent toward the development of this park. 1922-1967." The gates were unveiled and dedicated in 1970.

The flowers and shrubs and trees are memorials also. Those who watch the tulips bloom in spring, the peonies, delphiniums, lilies, roses and other flowers in summer, and finally the chrysanthemums in autumn, know that it has all been well worthwhile.

Portage la Prairie

Stories about the War

In *A History of Portage la Prairie and Surrounding District*, a variety of information about World War I can be found:

It is impossible in a book of this size to list the names of all the boys from Portage and district who joined the fighting ranks between 1914 and 1918. However, a list of names of the first volunteers who passed the medical inspection carried out by Dr. H. J. Hassard on August 13, 1914 are as follows: Fred. C. Mills, Herman Hartley, Jack King, James Woods, George Robertson, Charles Rea, Charles Tarling, Sidney Bonney, John Edward Lamb, Fred Archie McKenzie, Fred Morand, Elmer Prout, Thomas Carmichael, Stanley Garrioch, Charles Abbott, Alvert Livesay, Jack Prereth, W.J. Guttridge, Francis William Mirtle, George E. Willis, Frederick Fletcher, William Baldwin, Fred Trevelin and William Pedin.

Just two weeks later, the Manitoba Liberal paper published the names of the men who entrained at Portage for Valcartier. The list was made up of: Lt.-Col. C.D. McPherson, Major D. M. Ormond, Capt. Chas. A. Ogletree, Sgt. Macdonal, Corp. Stewart, Corp. Douglas and 105 Privates.

Men were selected on their physical fitness, ability as shots, and training received in militia was also a factor. Unmarried men were the first selection, married men without families second and with families third. Height could not be less than five feet three inches, chest 33 ½ inches.

At Valcartier, Quebec, the soldiers received rigorous training before continuing on to the battle front. It was there also that they were introduced to mother earth as a bed!

Women contributed much during the war years too. Housewives made as any sugarless recipes as possible and every cent that could be saved went toward the war effort. There wasn't an organization in Portage la Prairie that ignored the needs of comforts and necessities for the boys overseas. The work done by the Salvation Army, Red Cross and I.O.D.E. is well known.

Four Portage ladies who deserve special mention here are: Mrs. M. B. Snider, Miss Younghusband, Miss Bertha Barnes and Miss Mary Pantan, the latter two

being graduates of the Portage General Hospital. After war was declared they immediately offered their services to go to the front in the capacity of Red Cross nurses.

On November 7, 1918, the Daily Graphic carried big headlines – “VICTORY IS OURS” and in only slightly smaller letter – “GERMANY SURRENDERS.”

At twelve minutes to twelve the city bells announced to the people of Portage la Prairie that the Allied armies had been successful and that the war was virtually at an end. The ringing of the city bells was followed by those of churches and with the din of whistles from the railway yards it was not long before people knew that the terrible war had at last come to an end, that right had triumphed over might and that all sacrifices had not been in vain.



Portage la Prairie War Memorial. (*A History of Portage la Prairie and Surrounding District*, 92)

Mayor Marlatt got out a proclamation declaring the rest of the day a half holiday, asking the business places to close and for stores and homes to be decorated and illuminated that night. "Make all the noise you want to," he said. "Make it a day long to be remembered"

The celebration was a little premature but the handwriting was on the wall by that time anyway. Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated and fled to Holland on November 11, 1918; and on June 28, 1919, a Peace Treaty was signed at Versailles.

Sixty thousand Canadians never lived to rejoice in the victory. Some of them were boys from Portage la Prairie and surrounding districts.

Two hundred thousand Canadians came home wounded. Some of them from Portage la Prairie surrounding districts too.

No one has ever tried to estimate the number of tears that were shed by broken-hearted mothers, wives and sweethearts.

Names of the Portage boys who made the Supreme Sacrifice for the freedom of others, are engraved on a cenotaph which was erected by the Prairie Gateway Chapter of the I.O.D.E. in the centre of the city on Saskatchewan Avenue.

Rapid City

War Stories

The Rapid City local history, *It's Time to Remember*, contains the following observations about life during World War I:

Locally, Camp Hughes (Shilo today) was established as a training ground as a huge tent city appeared. The first boys from our district had enlisted and left for training at Valcartier, Quebec, by August 13, 1914, under Major (later Brigadier General) H.M. Dyer of Minnedosa.

The 226th Platoon was trained at Rapid City by Lieutenant Paul Kane and many men from the district signed up there. Some boys, thrilled with the new idea of flying, rushed to join the Royal Air Force, and later the Royal Canadian Air Force trained at Camp Borden.

In the family histories and the pictures of the Rapid City Platoon are given most of the names of the local volunteers. We cannot attempt to make a list. Cooper Stone, in the Reporter, kept a close account of enlistments, military honors and the missing, wounded and killed in action.



War Memorial service at Rapid City (*It's Time to Remember*, 192)

On the home front, food production was increased, the work being done by the older men and young boys and girls. A "Soldiers of the Soil" group was organized to encourage young boys, 15 to 19 years, to do their bit on the home front. Patriotic meetings were called and drives made for funds for the war effort. Victory Bonds were sold. Red Cross organizations were busy knitting, sewing and packing boxes for the troops overseas. At harvest, troops from Camp Hughes were given time off to help with the harvesting.

Finally on November 11, 1918, an armistice was signed. The Allies had won the war but at a terrific price.

Large celebration were arranged to welcome the boys home again. Memorial services were held for those who were not returning. The Dominion Government passed a Veterans' Land Act to help returned soldiers get established on farms, if they so desired; others were offered free higher education.

Reinland

Conscientious Objectors

The local history book, *Reinland: An Experience in Community*, provides some valuable insights into the thoughts and lives of those young men who chose to stand against the war – a group that came to be known as conscientious objectors:

World Wars I and II were different experiences in some respects. Despite what was probably the strongest national fervour that Canada has known, the government, in World War I, adhered strictly to the Privilegium of 1873. In World War II this adherence took some different forms. A large number of Mennonite young men volunteered for military service including some from Reinland. When conscription came there was no blanket exemption as in the previous war. Provisions were made for alternative service. In effect the conscientious objectors became involved in forestry and other types of service in the 1870s.

WORLD WAR I

When World War I broke out there was some uneasiness in the churches. Would the Privilegium stand the test of war? In November 1916, three Reinländer Mennonite Church elders, Johann Friesen of Manitoba, Abram Wiebe of Swift Current and Jacob Wiens of Hague-Osker, visited Ottawa. The uneasiness of these leaders was temporarily allayed, at least to a degree, by the guarantee of Prime Minister Robert L. Borden that the 1873 contract would be observed to the letter.

Elder Isaak M. Dyck, a young minister in Manitoba at this time, later described anxieties from his viewpoint. The large sums of money that soon had to be raised for the Red Cross were viewed with misgivings by Dyck. The reason was certainly not stinginess because at various times considerable sums had been raised voluntarily for relief programs even before the war. His stated concern was that while this money was not being used directly for military purposes it, nevertheless, supported the war effort and hence helped to intensify the war.

Fears also surrounded the January, 1917, government manpower survey and Elder Johann Friesen returned the National Service Cards for the Reinländer Church to Ottawa. At a meeting in Reinland of leaders and laymen of both the

Manitoba and Saskatchewan congregations of that body it was decided not to complete the National Service Cards.



Camp 3 at Riding Mountain National Park. Many Reinland conscientious objectors worked at forestry camps in World War II. (Photo from *Reinland: An Experience in Community*, 237)

Another delegation to Ottawa in January, 1917, consisting of Elder Abraham Doerksen of the Sommerfelder Church, Rev. Benjamin Ewert of the Bergthaler Church, Rev. David Toews, Rosthern, of the Rosenorter Church, and Mr. Klaas Peters of Saskatchewan was also assured that the Privilegium would be honored, but was told that the National Service Cards had to be completed though the word Mennonite could be written across it to give it special treatment. They were even assured that Mennonites who had joined the forces because of undue pressure on them and who wanted to be released could be freed. The delegation was satisfied.

The registration issue would come up again. A year later, hard on the heels of the Conscription Act, the Canada Registration Act of 1918 was passed. The superintendent of registration for Manitoba, P.C. Locke, called it "an effort by the Dominion Government to classify the available man and woman power of the Dominion." Organized resistance developed because of the doubt as to the real purpose of the Act. Mennonites had been exempted from the Conscription Act under the Privilegium and now claimed that therefore they should not be required to participate in this registration. The government was concerned that the defiance of the Manitoba Mennonites would spread to other parts of the

country. Locke was aware of this danger and determined to deal with the situation. He met with Mennonite representatives in Winnipeg and also worked through the lawyer who represented the Reinländer Church, Mr. Alexander McLeod, and K.C., of Morden. Finally a meeting was arranged between Mr. Locke and Reinländer leaders from both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Locke arranged for McLeod and W.J. Rowe, Manitou, to accompany him. The meeting was to take place in Reinland on June 13, 1918. The registration deadline was June 22, 1918. This law made provision for fines and imprisonment if there was no compliance.

An exciting drama unfolded in Reinland that meeting day. At a brotherhood meeting at the church that morning it was decided not to register. Locke claims that he had been invited to that meeting for eleven o'clock and seemed to feel let down by finding out later that the conference had been held at 6 a.m. Elder Isaak M. Dyck simply states the "Registrarherr" arrived after the brotherhood meeting to find out about its results. It has not traditionally been the policy of the Reinländer Church to permit non-members to participate in its decision-making meetings with the brethren. What probably happened was that Mr. Locke was deliberately invited to meet with the elders and the rest of the ministry at eleven o'clock and an invitation for the brotherhood meeting was never intended.

Locke wrote about what took place at that meeting in the home of Rev. Peter Harms, Reinland, that day:

I arrived at Morden about ten o'clock on the morning of the 13th. Mr. Rowe and Mr. McLeod met me. We drove out by car to the village of Rhineland situated about 14 miles from Morden. When I got three or four miles from there I could see horses and buggies, teams and democrats, streaming away in all direction from the village. That wasn't a healthy sign to me. My driver knew many of the people in the reserve. A team came towards us. I said to my driver, "Joe, turn your car crossways on the road." A democrat came along drawn by a beautiful pair of horses. Joe said to me in a low voice, "That is ----, he is the head man in one of the villages here." I got out of the car and walked over to the driver, put my hand out and introduced myself. I said, "You are Mr. ---- and you are head man at ----? I was invited to a meeting of the congregations his morning. Why is everybody leaving Rhineland?" He looked rather gravely at me and said, "the meeting is over. We met at six o'clock this morning and prayed to the Lord and he told us not to register." That was rather a facer. I said to him, "Why was the meeting held six in the morning when I was invited for eleven o'clock?" He looked

rather shamefacedly at me and said, "Mr. Locke, you know Mr. Harms?" In return I replied that Mr. Harms was a very old friend of mine. "Well," he said, "he expects you to go to his house. I think I will turn back to Morden but you people will have to register."

Mr. McLeod, Mr. Rowe and I had a little talk and Mr. McLeod thought that I should go to Rhineland, although he was very frank in saying that he thought it was a waste of time. I drove into the village of Rhineland. I went up to Mr. Harm's house which was one of the largest houses in the village and as my car pulled up at the front gate, Mr. Harms came out. He invited me to come in and, of course, invited Mr. McLeod and Mr. Rowe with me. I said to him, "Mr. Harms, I don't think your people are playing fair with me. I met one of your men (naming him) on the road and he tells me that you people have decided to defy the provisions of the Act." He said, "Yes, we had a meeting at six o'clock this morning but I have asked the bishops and predigors to meet at my house and to meet you and to discuss the matter with you. We want to point out that we are not deliberately defying the Dominion Government."

I walked in to the house and there I met the bishop from the west reserve, a large number of Mennonite preachers and a tall, handsome man from Rosthern, Bishop Walls. I was introduced to each man in the room. A number of them were younger than I was some of them older. We sat down around the sides of the room. Mr. McLeod, Mr. Rowe and I in one corner. Bishop Walls explained to me that he had been asked to act as interpreter. In the centre of the room was a small table, perhaps a foot and a half square, and lying upon the table was a large leather bound Bible. We started our conference.

Most of the conversation was between Bishop Walls and myself. I read them extracts from it; I read them letters received from Senator Robertson, and other members of the Dominion Government. I pointed out that this was simply an endeavour to get the man and the woman power of the Dominion made up so that the Government would know what efforts could be put forth should the war, then in its fourth year, carry on indefinitely. My knowledge of the German is not great. I was able to follow some of the conversation between Bishop Walls and the other members of the conference but not all. I used every argument I could think of. The answer was "no, we cannot register, the Lord will not let us." Mr. McLeod said to me, "I am afraid we cannot do anything." I said to the Bishop, "Bishop, I have known

the Mennonite people since my childhood. If you refuse to register it is my duty to enforce the Act and I propose to do so. The Act provides for ten days' imprisonment for failure to register, and for a fine of so much a day for each day after the 22nd of June you fail to register. I propose to enforce that. I cannot have the authority of the Dominion Government flouted." The old Manitoba Bishop then broke silence. He said to me in English. "You cannot put all the Mennonite people in jail." I said, "No, but I guarantee you one thing, and that is that you and every man present in this room who fails to register on the 22nd of June will be imprisoned on the 23rd. Again the old Bishop spoke. He said, "I want you to clearly understand we do not blame you for doing your duty. If we don't register any man of us whom you want we'll report to Mr. McLeod's office at Morden on the morning of the 23rd ready to go to jail." I said, "Bishop, there is also a fine." He said, "Yes, and we will bring you in our bank books, the titles to our farms and lists of our stock." The answer was certainly a facer. Mr. McLeod again leaned over to me and said, "There isn't a thing we can do." I realized what a difficult situation was being created. I knew that in all probability other communities in other parts of Canada would defy the government's mandate. The Mennonite people had called my hand. They knew that I knew that they did not fear imprisonment or confiscation of their worldly goods in defence of a principle. No one realized that any better than I did. For a while nothing was said. I was desperately groping for some way out of the entanglement. Arguments and cajolements had got me nowhere. Threats of enforcing the rather unpleasant penalty provisions had had just a little effect. What was left to do?

I did a lot of serious thinking. Then I got up, walked over to the middle of the room, picked up the Martin Luther Bible lying on the small table, and took it back to my seat with me. All eyes followed me. The Bible was in German. I had stated and a good many of those in the room knew that my knowledge of German was a very scanty one. I leafed over the pages turned up the second chapter of St. Luke, the first verse. There it was: "And it came to pass in those days that there went forth a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed and all went to be taxed, everyone unto his own city, and Joseph, also went up from Galilee to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife".

To make sure I called my friend Mr. Harms over. I said to him, "Mr. Harms, my German, as you know, is rather faulty, but you will correct me if my English translation is not correct?"

Many years before I had remembered at Sunday School, Archbishop Matheson speaking about the same passage but an enrolment of registration and he then he said to his class, "The Martin Luther version is right, the King James version is wrong." Anyway, there was the word in the old German Bible 'engerracht'. Mr. Harms confirmed my translation. I walked back into the centre of the room, placed the open Bible on the table and said to the conference. "I have known your people as long as I can remember. A good many of the older men were clients of my father. Some of your people I know quite intimately. I know that this book is the Mennonite's law. Am I right?" I am quite sure that none of them knew what was coming except Mr. Harms. "My friends, if I can show you authority for this registration in the Bible will you do what I ask you to do?" Some of the men thought I was going pretty far. I am quite sure my friends, McLeod and Rowe thought I had taken leave of my senses. I said, "This Government is only asking from you the same thing that Caesar Augustus asked the earthly father and mother of our Lord to do, and they did so. Will you listen to this passage from St. Luke's?" I read the first five verses of the second Chapter of St. Luke and I read it in German. I then translated it into English. There was rather an awed silence and then the members of the conference began to talk among themselves. They gathered in little knots around the two Bishops. Then the old Manitoba Bishop turned to me. His voice was shaky. He was evidently very deeply stirred by what I had said to him. He walked over to the centre of the room where I was standing. He said, "Mr. Locke, we are deeply obliged to you. You have shown us the truth. We believed we were right this morning when we told you that we had been advised not to register. We have put the Government to a good deal of expense. Will you let us register our own people under your direction? We will give you all our young people who read and write and speak English well and they will do whatever work is necessary without expense." I said to him, "Bishop, I should be very glad to have the assistance of your young people, but as I am paying all my help in other parts of the Province I do not think that I should accept the offer of free services of our people here in the reserve. They will be paid the same as all the rest of my staff.

There was no more trouble. Bishop Walls went back to Rosthern and in no part of Canada was there a more complete registration than amongst our Mennonite Canadians.

One of the fascinating revelations of the account is that a position that stood firm in the face of a summons to Winnipeg, threats of fines, imprisonment and confiscation of property, yielded to a simple appeal to Scripture. Perhaps this incident provides a clue to a much misunderstood aspect of the so-called “stubborn” attitudes of the old Reinländer Church.

Rhineland

The World We Have Lost

A moving section of the local history book, *The Rural Municipality of Rhineland, Volost and Municipality* (1984), describes the effects of war on a Manitoba community:

The period from the beginning of the First World War until the conclusion of the 1920s saw the end of life in the R.M. of Rhineland. Theocratic Mennonite village life, with its open field economy, had been in retreat since the late 19th century, but developments after 1914 spelt its end. Nationalism, war, and technological change would alter the very face of Rhineland society. Even Rhineland's boundaries, encompassing most of the Mennonite settlements in the area, were altered with the western half of the former West Reserve transferred to the R.M. of Stanley in 1916.

World War I did not, in most cases, directly affect the lives of Rhineland's residents, but it did indirectly change many things. English Canadian nationalism, evident before the war, became even more intense after the war broke out and led to changes in Manitoba's school laws. This new legislation wiped out many Mennonite school privileges causing large numbers of Mennonites to emigrate to Mexico and Paraguay. With them went the last vestiges of the open field economy, organized village government and the Mennonite private school system. Most of the Mennonites who remained chose to accommodate to the modern Canadian society.

The War also had other indirect effects on the R.M. of Rhineland. In Russia, war and revolution ended another way of life for Mennonites there and many of these refugees found their way to Rhineland in the 1920s. While these immigrants represented some continuity with the world that was lost, their settlement in Rhineland never restored this world.

There was one other development in this period which speeded the passage of the traditional way of life in Rhineland. This was the technological transformation within rural Canada. The automobile and telephone brought the outside world to the farmer's doorstep, while mechanization and agricultural education began to change the farmer's attitude toward farming. All pointed towards a new way of life in Rhineland.

THE EFFECTS OF WAR

The outbreak of World War I, in August of 1914, was regarded quite differently by the various groups in Rhineland. The English Canadians, residing mainly in Gretna and Plum Coulee, reacted with the patriotic fervor of most other English Canadians, wholeheartedly supporting the war effort as a prime opportunity to defend the British Empire. Mennonites, on the other hand, reacted with dismay that civilized nations would resort to bloodshed. Their strong commitment to pacifism, moreover, made them resist active participation in the war effort. This divergent reaction caused some friction in Gretna and Plum Coulee, but no serious incident resulted, due in part to the overwhelming preponderance of Mennonites in the municipality.

While the Mennonites were dismayed at the outbreak of war, they did little in the way of voicing their objection to the war. They were far more concerned with maintaining their exemption from military service and keeping their young people from voluntarily joining the military service. As early as 1916, the Bergthaler Church served notice that any member who volunteered for active service was automatically excommunicated.

The first threat to the Mennonites' military exemption came in late 1916, with the announcement that a national service registration would take place in 1917 to make an inventory of available manpower in Canada. Under this program all males 16-65 years of age were asked to fill out registry cards. Fearing that this was the beginning of conscription, a delegation of Mennonite leaders travelled to Ottawa to investigate the matter.

These delegates, including Abraham Doerksen of the Sommerfelder Church and Benjamin Ewert of the Bergthaler Church, were assured that their exemption from military service would be fully respected, but the cards had to be filled out. The Reinlaender opposing any form of registration sent no delegate. Reassured by these promises, the Mennonite group represented by this delegation, co-operated with registration. It is interesting to note that the Reinlaender Church, refusing to either register their men or provide the government with a list of males 16-65, was not forced to comply.

The introduction of conscription on August 29, 1917, presented another threat to Mennonite exemption from military service. While Mennonites were among the categories of persons exempted from the Act's provisions, Military Service Act, difficulties began to develop. Problems arose particularly when young

Mennonites appeared before local tribunals to prove their identity as members of the Mennonite Church.

Much of the problem was the uncertainty among government officials as to who was a Mennonite. It became evident that some government officials were restricting military exemption to those who had been baptized. Since the legal age of induction was eighteen and many Mennonite youths were not baptized until twenty or twenty-one years of age, quite a number of youths were in danger of induction.

This was finally clarified in 1918 when Abraham Dyck of Lowe Farm was inducted into the military as a test case. Leaders of the Mennonite Church in Manitoba were called to Winnipeg to testify on the Church status of an unbaptized Mennonite child. This testimony confirmed that the Mennonite Church considered its unbaptized children and young people as its own as much as the baptized members and were accepted as such by the government.

The last threat to the Mennonites' exemption from military service in Manitoba came with the national registration of 1918. Finding difficulty in securing recruits for service overseas, the Canadian government called for universal registration to facilitate this objective. Mennonites were assured that the government would fully honour its promises to the Mennonites but insisted that all, without exception, must register. With these assurances even the Reinlaender Church was prevailed upon to register its members.

While Mennonites in Rhineland took all necessary measures to avoid active service, they were willing to financially support organizations such as the Red Cross and the Patriotic Fund. In this they were motivated both by their desire to provide relief to war victims and also "to secure the goodwill of their Canadian neighbours who would be less likely to press for Mennonite enlistment if they saw evidence of voluntary sacrifice." The Bergthaler Mennonite Church went so far as to make these contributions to the Red Cross a carefully planned annual affair, developing an informal property tax by 1918. Mennonite contributions to these relief organizations amounted to close to \$150,000. The 6,452 Manitoba Sommerfelders alone contributed \$46,000, or over seven dollars per member.

The purchase of victory bonds in Rhineland was a more controversial issue, since this clearly represented financial support for the war effort. The Bergthaler Church leaders considered it their duty to financially support the government and accordingly left the decision up to individual members whether they wished

to participate. The Sommerfelder, Reinländer, and Mennonite Brethren Churches, however, refused to support the Victory Loan program until the government promised to devote that money raised among the Mennonites to relief purposes. Following this concession, Manitoba Mennonites purchased close to \$700,000 worth of Victory Bonds in less than a year.

The favourable war-time treatment of the Mennonites in Canada was looked upon with envy by Mennonites and Hutterites in the United States. When the United States entered the War in 1917, Mennonites and Hutterites had considerable difficulty gaining exemption from military service and began exploring emigration to Canada. While the majority of United States Mennonites migration to Canada settled in Saskatchewan and Alberta, some did not come to Manitoba. The Canadian Government still considered Mennonites a desirable class of agriculturalists and encouraged its U.S. agents to facilitate their migration into Canada. This policy also applied to Hutterites, who were assured of military exemption and religious freedom.

But by 1918 local feeling began to turn against the influx of Mennonites from the United States and the government revoked its blanket military exemption from American Mennonites and Hutterites. By this time, however, a large number of Mennonites and sixteen Hutterite colonies had been established in western Canada. Six of these Hutterite colonies were located in Manitoba.

The Hutterites that settled in Manitoba were known as the *Schmiedeleut* and came from South Dakota. They purchased land in the Elie district, west of Winnipeg and established a number of communal colonies. These initial colonies, however, proved too small for the growing population and more land was purchased. Between 1918 and 1929 four additional colonies were founded in Manitoba, one of which was located in Rhineland. The colony became known as the Blumengart Village lands from Mennonites departing from Mexico in 1922.

The war also influenced a number of other developments which affected the quality of life in the R.M. of Rhineland. The demand for Canadian foodstuffs during the war stimulated agricultural production and raised the prices of agricultural products. Receiving good prices for their wheat, Rhineland farmers increased their already heavy concentration on wheat farming. This specialization in wheat continued through the 1920s and would cause severe dislocations in the 1930s.

The greatest impact on the R.M. of Rhineland during this period, however, was caused by the changes in the educational laws of Manitoba and the Russian Revolution. The first would lead to the mass emigration of Rhineland Mennonites to Mexico and Paraguay, while the second resulted in the immigration of Russian Mennonites to Rhineland.

Roblin

A Soldier Remembers

In the local history, *Memories of Roblin and Rural Districts*, the war-time recollections of local soldier George McNeill are collected under a section entitled "War Memories:"

I joined the Army – 107 Battalion Infantry C.E.F. on May 26th, 1916, and spent the early summer at Camp Hughes, six miles west of Carberry on the C.P.R., before going overseas in August. We were seven days on the train and seven days out of sight of land on board the Olympic, the largest ocean-liner then afloat and one which travelled without escort all through the war. Thanks to its speed the German boats never succeeded in destroying the Olympic and I was fortunate enough to come home in June 1919 on the same boat. The 107 Battalion was broken up in England to provide the replacements for the Canadian units which were more or less wiped out in the Battle of the Somme, and within three months all that remained of the 107th Battalion was Colonel Glen Campbell, former Minister of Interior and Indian Affairs. Glen's father had been a Scotch Hudson's Bay Factor, and Glen grew up with the Aborigines, later marrying a full-blooded Aboriginal woman and raising several children. His son was in the 107th.



Soldiers of the First World War at Roblin (*Memories of Roblin and Rural Districts*, 134)

As Minister of Indian Affairs Glen was well-known to the Aboriginals all through Manitoba and when he recruited the 107th Battalion he took on some two hundred and fifty or three hundred Aboriginals so that A Company, with the exception of several N.C.O.'s, was made up of Aboriginals, many of whom had never seen a train before coming to Winnipeg to join the Army. However, Glen had several ex-Hudson Bay men with him and was able to drill the Aboriginals into shape and the 107th, with its pipe band leading, the A. Company Ranks, filled completely with Aboriginals, always caused considerable comment wherever we appeared.

However it was decided to keep the Aboriginals in one Unit after our arrival in England so that the 107th was again filled with Aboriginals from all across Canada, and in January 1917 we set sail for Boulogne to replace the 1st Pioneers who had been wiped out on the Somme a few months earlier.

The transport officer of the 107th was a Captain Bryant from Shellmouth and through his arrangements practically the whole Roblin Platoon was placed in charge of the transport which consisted of ninety-eight horses and mules. The mules either were hitched to the wagons or used as pack animals and we had both general service wagons such as they used in the Boer War, as well as pack saddlers of similar vintage.

Fortunately or unfortunately measles broke out in our hut shortly after we arrived in Witley Camp and the hut was quarantined for three months so that by the time we got out of quarantine practically everyone else except the Aboriginals had gone to the 44th Battalion, 16th Battalion and the 1st C.M.R.S., who once we arrived in France, used to visit us and sneer at us for being with the pioneers instead of with some of the famous CDM Regiments. However life with the transport was anything but secure or pleasant. Each night we went up the line either with G.S. wagons or with pack horses and often when we arrived the Infantry would not move out of their trenches to accept the supplies, and so we would be travelling on the surface road while the Infantry followed their communication trenches and almost every trip we would move to the side opposite which enemy machine guns were operating so that the mules provided a certain amount of cover for our bodies at least.

In 1917 I was sent down the line to a field to the 107th reinforcement depot just behind the lines a few miles. Here a Sergeant, who had gone with us from Canada, was in charge of the office and for old times sake, postponed sending us back into the line as long as recruits continued to come in sufficient numbers to make up the required drafts for the Regiment and so he put me on a draft and we

marched some seven or eight miles with full packs on our backs and reported to the Company Orderly Room for duty. Unfortunately the Orderly Room discovered that they hadn't put my name on the draft and I was instructed to march back the seven or eight miles. A few days later, before another draft was sent forward, the Germans broke through some fifteen miles to the right of the Canadian held line. Every available man in the various reinforcement depots back of the line were issued 250 rounds of ammunition, several hand grenades and marched into the front line to hold the German advance and for the next month I was in the line, waiting for a big attack from German troops, who held a sunken road about four hundred yards from us.



The 32nd Manitoba Horse Regiment in 1912 on the Main Street in Roblin. (*Memories of Roblin and Rural Districts*, 125)

One morning orders came through for us to attack the sunken line, so over the top we went and in open attack order rushed the sunken road only to find that the Germans had pulled out in the night due to attacks on their flanks along the salient they had held in our lines. A few days later some fifty of us were sent to the 12th Royal Cdn Engineers and I finished the war as a Sapper. Shortly before the Armistice I went on my one and only leave to England, going first to Belfast and then by boat to Scotland.

On my return some three week later, the Germans had more or less collapsed and were retiring all along our front. On November 10th, 1918 we were just in

front of Mons where the British Regulars had first met the German Army in 1914. Unfortunately the 4th Division was ordered into reserve while the 3rd Division marched into Mons and certain amount of glory. On November 11th, orders came through telling of the Armistice and the end of the war. We could hardly believe the war was over and that we had lived through it, however the guns remained silent all day and we finally concluded that it was really the end of hostilities.

The 4th Division being the last to go to France was given the doubtful honour of turning over Canadian Military supplies and equipment and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment, horses, mules, artillery pieces and ammunition trucks.

We returned to Witley Camp at the same spot as we left to go to France, and on the 19th of June arrived in Toronto where we were demobilized and given railway tickets to our homes. So without delay I took the train and arrived in Winnipeg to find the 1919 strike in full bloom, with the R.C.M.P. patrolling the streets to prevent bloodshed. I took a train to Roblin at the first opportunity and was met at the station by Jim and Locksley in a Chevrolet car. They had been quite small boys and I had to look at them twice to recognize them, as they were both taller than I. This was my war experience as I remember it.

(George was the son of Daniel and Jane McNeill, pioneers of the Roblin district. In 1922 he went to Winnipeg to attend University. In 1924 he married Edith Grassie. He then studied theology at United College and was ordained by the United Church. George served as a Padre in the Second World War and went overseas with the Fort Garry Horse Regiment. After his return he served as a Chaplain at the Stony Mountain Penitentiary. George is now deceased.)

Roblin

An Act of Mercy

In the local history, *Memories of Roblin and Rural Districts*, a poignant passage reminds us of kindness even on the battlefield:

In the fall of 1914, the first volunteers from Roblin district left for overseas. Amongst them was Walter Day, who was reported missing and then killed on April 23, 1915. His parents never received any of his personal effects, and no more information as to how or where he died, and it was surmised that that he died during the Langemarck battle when the Canadians were subject to the first heavy gas attack. Now, nearly nine years later, Mr. and Mrs. Day, who now reside in England, received a parcel from Dresden, Germany containing their son's paybook and will.

The story, as told by a young German soldier, is that while he was walking over the battlefield he came upon a young British soldier, who had both his legs blown off; he asked for a drink, for he was dying fast. The British soldier then handed his paybook and will to the German soldier, who says he carried it with him, waiting to find someone he could trust to send it to the British parents. An American journalist in Dresden heard the story and saw the German who gave him the paybook and will. He then forwarded them to Mr. and Mrs. Day. The British soldier was Walter Day who left Roblin in 1914. Thus, after nine years, his parents and brothers knew how their son and brother died.

Roblin

War Memorial

In the local history, *Memories of Roblin and Rural Districts*, a passage taken from the October 27, 1927 issue of the *Roblin Review* describes the fund-raising for the local war memorial:

The long-sought-for war memorial to the men of Roblin and district who fell in the Great War has been erected on the site donated by the Union Church. Many thanks are due to all the institutions who combined to make this possible, and also to those citizens who assisted financially. The objective of \$1,700.00 still lacks some \$600.00 and it is hoped that this sum will be realized before the unveiling several weeks hence.

An appeal is made to all people in the community for donations, large or small to help meet this balance and a hearty response is looked for, as this is the only means we have of paying tribute to the men who gave their lives so that we could live and enjoy our freedom. Donations should be forwarded either to Mrs. Old, Secretary or Dr. Drach, Treasurer, or to any member of the War Memorial Committee. The following is a list of how the funds were obtained.

Afternoon teas	\$48.25
C. Parks	10.00
Anglican Guild	27.00
Collection July 2, 1927	23.30
Mr. N. Kapey	25.00
The Perriots	106.35
Mr. W. Thompson	10.00
Football Club	50.00
Cromarty W.I	15.00
Jewish Ladies Aid	5.00
Cromarty Soft Ball Club	10.00
Union Ladies Aid	25.00
Business Mens Soft-ball	10.00
L.O.L.	50.00
Tummel W.I.	50.00
Shell River Municipality	200.00
Village of Roblin	200.00

Mr. and Mrs. Belton	15.00
L.O.B.A.	25.00
F.Y. Newton	50.00
Elks	100.00
Masonic Lodge	50.00
Rebekahs	40.00
I.O.O.F Lodge	50.00
Maaten & Hayward	5.00
J. Chapman	5.00

Friday, November 11, 1927 is the ninth anniversary of the ending of the Great War and on that day the unveiling ceremony of the War Memorial to the men of Roblin and district will be held. The ceremony is timed for 2 P.M. and it will be of a most impressive character. It is hoped that as many people as possible will be present.



Boys of the 107th at Roblin (*Memories of Roblin and Rural Districts*, 129)

And in the same local history a passage taken from the November 17, 1927 issue of the *Roblin Review* describes the unveiling of the local war memorial:

A simple, but most impressive ceremony, marked the unveiling and dedication of our long-awaited-for War Memorial on November 11, 1927 at 2 P.M. before a large gathering of citizens, who in spite of the inclement weather turned out to witness the ceremony and pay their respects to the honored dead.

The memorial is a beautiful one with the figure of a soldier in stone standing on a black pedestal on which is engraved the names of those from this district who fell and the names of the engagements in which Canadians took a distinctive part. It will stand forever, not only to the memory of the terrible price paid by the boys of this district, but perpetuated in stone and marble, it serves to remind us of the common sacrifice and the united effort made by Canada in the long ordeal of war.

The ceremony of unveiling and dedicating the monument was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Cousins, M.C. and Hon. C. F. of Dauphin, in a truly military and most sympathetic manner. In his dedicatory remarks, that solemn reflection in which the panorama of great events and splendid men marched before our mental vision, stirred all profoundly, and left with a deeper and more sincere respect for the sacrifice they commemorated. The ceremony was attended by the veterans who marched to the scene of the unveiling in a body, together with nearly four hundred school children.

Thompson

Lest We Forget

In the R.M. of Thompson's local history, *Thompson Chronicles*, a collection of observations and letters from the front suggest life during war-time:

War is a fact of history. When the call came for recruits, promoted as an opportunity to see the world, the local young men and women did not hesitate to volunteer. Many saw this as a duty to serve their Country and the Monarchy, not knowing the dangers and hardships that would be involved. They rose to the challenge and went for their training where many life-long friendships were made. These young people served in the Army, Navy and Air Force and saw action in many countries overseas. Unfortunately, not all those who enlisted returned home to their family and friends.

The Tonkin War Memorial

Through the generosity of the late Mr. Frederick W. Tonkin, a monument to the fallen soldiers of the Great War from this district has been erected on the north-west corner of Broadway and Kerby. The monument is a tall shaft of grey granite after the style of "Cleopatra's Needle," on a raised dais, and on three sides are the names of thirty-three men who paid the supreme sacrifice. On the other side the following is inscribed, "Dedicated to the memory of those of The Rural Municipality of Thompson who gave their lives in the Great War by the benevolence of the late Frederick W. Tonkin."

The unveiling of the monument took place in November, 1930 before a large crowd from our community. Roland, Carman, Morden, and Winnipeg were also represented.

After the War of 1939-45 an impressive plaque was erected on the same grounds, where all the names of the veterans of this war are listed.



The Tonkin War Memorial (*Thompson Chronicles*, 125)

World War I Letters

This letter was received by William and Mary Burnett in 1917, from their son Sandy, twenty-one years old, who was in France at the time. It was written on March 25, 1917 just fourteen days before the battle took place on Vimy Ridge.

France, March 25, 1917;

Dear Father and Mother;

Received your most welcome letter the other day and was glad to hear from you. I hope you are all well.

The weather is still and cold out here, as usual. I don't think it will ever dry up over here. I wish it would.

Dick and I got a bundle of mail yesterday.

We are living in a great chateau now, about 200 years old. "Fritz" used it for billets in 1870, they say. Some historic old place, believe me!

I suppose you'll be getting ready for farming now, eh?

I got a letter from Russell Snider the other day. How is Harvey getting along?

I heard he had joined the army but I guess he didn't.

It is raining out to beat "Sam Hill." How is Walter Rutter getting along? It's too bad about Gordon and Morley [Gordon Burnett from Roland lost an eye in the war]. As far as they're concerned, they're better in England.

I wish I could have one good meal at home now, I'm aching for pie as anyone could be, believe me!

I suppose the girls will all be out working this spring, eh? I asked Dell and Anne if they are going to wear the new uniform. You should be in England now, you would think you were in a theatre or circus to see all the girls in trousers – Karki at that. They certainly look swell, got the old-fashioned dresses beat a mile.

I am going to write about a dozen letters this afternoon. It's pretty near dinner time so I guess I will have to close for now this time.

Love from your son, Sandy.

France, April 1, 1917

Dear Mother and Father;

Well how are you all. We are pretty well. Just came out of the line last night, had a pretty hot trip, the weather was bad too.

Say, Alex Bruce was killed this trip in. He was hit with a high explosive shell, killed instantly.

We are getting along fine. I suppose you are getting ready for spring work. I had a letter from Molly the other night. I haven't got much news this time. We haven't got any parcels lately. I guess they have got lost some way.

Things are looking pretty good over here now, I think a few months should finish it.

Love, Sandy

France, April 3, 1917

Dear Father and Mother and all;

Just a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. Dick and I received an awful bunch of mail the other day, just the news, no parcels. I expect some right away soon.

That mail delivery will certainly be "jake," won't it? I should think they could bring it a little closer than that.

You will soon be at work again. Work will be the lightest kind of pleasure. I always did like certain kind of work – but not all kinds.

With love, from Sandy.

Next is a letter received by Mr. and Mrs. Burnett from the office of the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles, sometime in May 1917.

1st Canadian Mounted Rifles; # 187.510, Pte. H.A. Burnett.

Informant states that on April 9th between Vimy Ridge and the enemy's first line a shell dropped and killed H.A. Burnett instantaneously.

Eye witness: Yes.

Description: Nickname "Sandy" average height, light complexion, light blue eyes, about 24-25.

1st, Canadian Mounted Rifles,
Tottenham Hospital,
Middlesex.

1st. Canadian Mounted Rifles. H.A. Burnett, 187510. Killed 7-10. 4-17. Det. D/B/.

I have seen his grave on top of Vimy Ridge. There is a cross over it with his name on. He came from Sperling Manitoba, Canada, where he was a friend of mine before the war. I have written to his family.

Reference: Pre. J.A. Steeves, 292244

No. 11 Con. Camp, Buchy nr. Rousen, 14.9.17



Military parade. (*Thompson Chronicles*, 128)

Wallace

Lest We Forget

The R.M. of Wallace local history, *Building our District*, contains some interesting entries concerning the home front and post-war activities:

A Letter Home: The Limit in Mud

Sergt. Wilson of Hargrave writes from Belgium. The following letter had been received from Transport Sergeant T.C. Wilson by his wife at Hargrave.

Somewhere in Belgium.

My Dear ---, I am feeling fine as I write this letter. Lots of work to do, which makes things interesting. The boys have been in the trenches from Saturday night until Tuesday night, out three days and going back tomorrow (Friday). Billie Forsythe had a thrilling experience last time he was in the trenches. His dug out was blown in on him and the boys tell me Bill came out through the earth like a badger. But we are all of one opinion and that is that the 1st C.M.R.'s are sure in luck so far. Old Fritz keeps shelling the road that we take the rations upon, but he is out of luck, the closest he has got us is to knock down a building close by and the flying brick scattering in the road and hitting some of the horses. It has rained here steadily for two weeks and the mud is indescribable, ten times as much as ever was seen in Canada. The boys when they start to march into the trenches, have no chance to rest along the road side, as all the country is cut up and in mud to the knees. I had a most elegant joy ride the other night, taking rations up to the trenches. I was ahead on my horse and he fell into a Jack Johnston hole and you should have seen us climbing for dry ground. (Did I say dry ground? I mean where there was only two feet of mud.) But of course there is no stop in a case of this kind, you must go ahead wet or dry (dry preferred) but I hope to get a rest soon. I see by the Virden paper where Pete Dingwall is coming home. I bet I have been in most of the places he told me of, since I came over here. I believe now all he told me of this country. I am camped right beside the Strathcona Horse from Winnipeg and I see all my old pals whom I used to be so familiar with in days gone by at Fort Osborne Barracks. But some of them have gone where we cannot meet them again in this life. Well, I must lie down on these old boards again for a few hours rest, so will say good-night.

Tom



World War I Training Camp (*Building our District*, 112)

(January 4, 1916 edition)

Patriotic Social at Hargrave

Mr. and Mrs. W. Hitchins Provide Splendid Evening for Big Crowd. Patriotic Work Benefitted.

The grove at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hitchins was the center of attraction for a large crowd last Wednesday evening, when a most enjoyable time was provided. The arrangements were all that could be desired, and reflect much credit on the entertaining ability of Mrs. Hitchings, and her band of assistance. The grove is a beautiful spot, particularly well-adapted for just such a social gathering. Inside the grove is a natural field for baseball, and among the attractions was an interesting game between Hargrave cup holders and Virden, the former winning by a 5-3 score. To one side, among the trees, numerous tables and seats were arranged for those wishing refreshments and, needless to say, this part of the social was well-patronized and efficiently-handled. A bean bag competition, as well as a fish pond, provided an abundance of amusement and incidentally some shekels. Virden Band contributed a nice musical program, which helped to enliven the evening and was much appreciated.

During the evening, tickets were sold and, later, the lucky ticket holder, Mr. Ted Boiteau, with ticket No. 65, was presented with a splendid cake.

Short addresses by Rev. Arthur Smith and J.A. McLachlan dealt with the work of our men at the front, as well as the ladies and men at home, in the effort to wrest victory from the terrible Huns.

Following this, Virden's popular auctioneer, W.M. Pineo, offered several cakes for sale by public auction and in his own peculiar and convincing way, demonstrated that the cakes had a very superior value, especially in view of the object for which the purchase price was being used. As a result the prices realized were entirely satisfactory.

Mr. and Mrs. Hitchins have asked that we convey their sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way towards their splendid success achieved.

Another resident of the district has asked us to say that "the thanks of the community are due Mr. and Mrs. Hitchins for their patriotic spirit in providing their beautiful grounds and for their efforts to ensure the pleasure of those who attended."

The financial result is as follows: Proceeds from ice cream and lemonade. \$53.90; cake draw, \$18.25; bean bag competition, \$11.25; sale of cakes by Mr. Pineo, \$41.20; collection, \$416.10; total receipts, \$146.55; expenses; \$40.50. A small private contribution brought the net proceeds up to \$107.00, which was divided equally between the Red Cross and Y.M.C.A. funds.

A Hymn for Soldiers

The hymn books of our churches contain very few hymns for soldiers, and the following verses contributed by Rev. Arthur Smith of Hargrave are appropriate at this time. This hymn can be sung to a common meter tune and we commend it to the choir leaders of the town and district.

A Hymn For Soldiers

We pray thee for our soldiers, Lord!
Defenders of our land,
Who at her need, with unsheathed sword,
Bravely her foes withstand.

Of many a tribe and nation they,
From varying climates brought
The Empire's honour, night and day,
In field and trench they sought.

We thank Thee for their courage bright
In deeds of daring shown,
Of death and wounds e'en making light,
Torn flesh and shattered bone.

Support in them the patriot mind
For home and truth to fight,
Which ruthless foes with hatred blind
Menace in cruel might.

O God! Give victory to our arms,
Arms that the weak defend
And, vengeful, from the tyrant's harms
Deliverance will lend.

O be thou by the soldier's side
Should death his struggles close;
In that dark vale be Thou his guide,
Sweet help and safe repose.

Hargrave Welcomes Soldier Heroes

Hargrave was en fete last Friday evening, when the people of the district gave a formal welcome to the men who have returned from overseas. A luncheon, served with the usual generosity of the people of this district, was followed by an address of welcome home by Mr. R.A. Knight, who paid a splendid tribute to the soldiers of Canada and the soldiers of Hargrave whose service and deeds of heroism contributed a full share towards the victory of the Empire and her allies. On gratefulness that so many of our men were spared to return and he thanked them most sincerely for the splendid service they have rendered.

Mr. John Davis, president of the Virden R.S.A., also made an excellent speech eulogizing the splendid spirit of sacrifice shown by the men of Hargrave in common with the men of Canada and the Empire, through which the power of right over might has been demonstrated to the world.

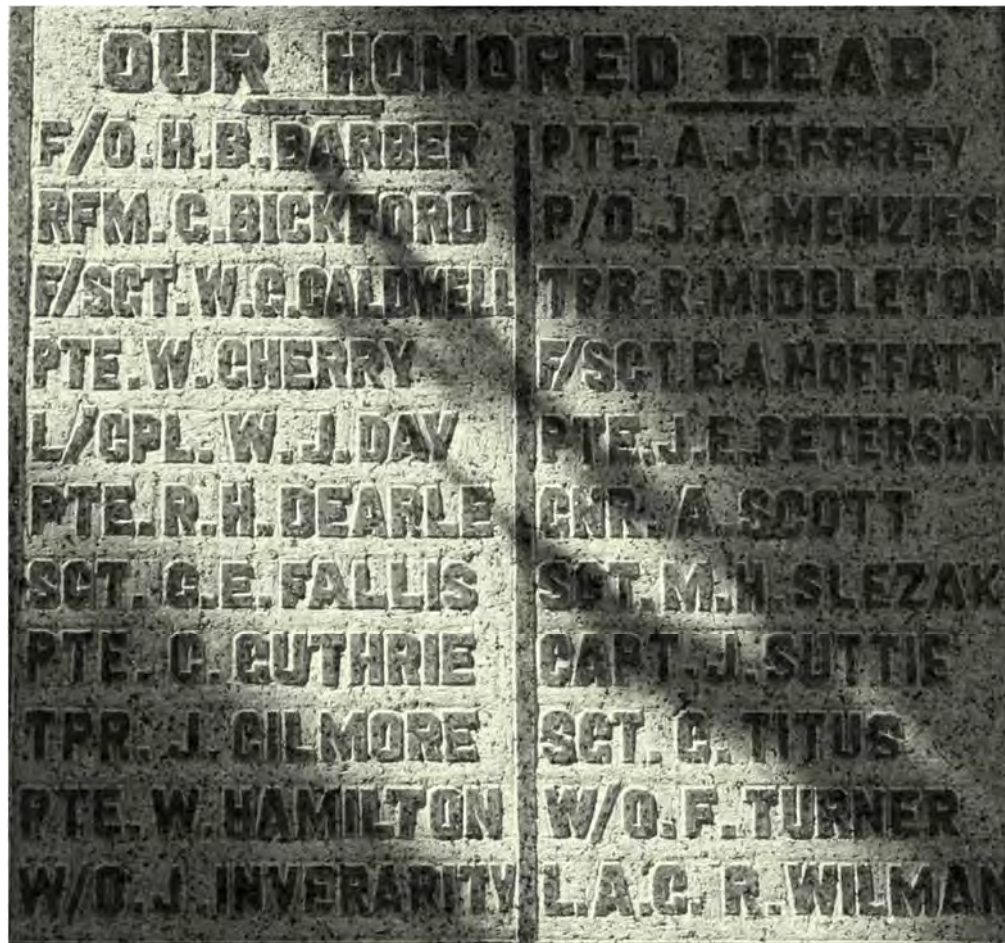
About twenty returned men formed up for the reception and they were greeted with rounds applause.

A baseball game between Hargrave and Virden proved interesting and while the latter won with a score of 6-3, yet it was anybody's game until the finish.

An enjoyable dance completed the programme.

There was plenty of food, ice cream and refreshments and everything was free. An interesting and enjoyable function which will long remain a pleasant memory.

LEARNING MATERIALS



LEARNING MATERIALS

The wealth of information in *War Memorials in Manitoba: An Artistic Legacy* can be used in school settings to engage youth in this important and fascinating aspect of Manitoba's history.

The study's Introduction contains general information about the First World War, while "A Brief History of War Memorial Design" provides a sense of historic precedents that place Manitoba's memorials in the larger context of memorial design over time. "The Making of a Memorial" includes information about how Manitoba memorials were developed, with a focus on those with sculptural figures. The section entitled "Guide to Manitoba Memorial Types" provides a brief introduction to each of the general memorial types that appear here, with a few good examples of each. Finally, "Local Stories" features extracts from Manitoba local histories that add contemporary colour and context that will help readers really understand the meaning of these memorials. Patrick Morican's 1996 inventory, updated and refreshed for this project, provides a great deal of raw data.

It is a wealth of information, but because it has been developed in part with a view to its use in classrooms, it is presented via easy-to-digest text entries and with many images. At the same time, there are other resources that can be used to make this subject even more relevant and meaningful for students. We have identified the following four subject areas that can be explored and combined for greater interest and effect:

- **Memorial Types**
- **Inscriptions and Texts**
- **Battle Names**
- **Memorialized Names**

Memorial Types

The Introduction to the section entitled “Guide to Manitoba Memorial Types” sets the stage:

The various types of Manitoba memorials that honour the dead of the First World War are a profound historical legacy. They are also a major artistic achievement. This section of the study of Manitoba war memorials explores the most common types of memorials with an eye to formal considerations – design, aesthetics, materials, craftsmanship. For those contemplating these profound objects first as places of memory and remembrance, this additional perspective can bring a completely different level of understanding and appreciation, even delight. Six major groupings of war memorial types have been identified in Manitoba:

- **Tablets**
- **Cairns**
- **Obelisks**
- **Cenotaphs**
- **Statues**
- **Architectural**

Each one of these types is reviewed in the following entries, with a handful of typical or exceptional Manitoba examples used to illuminate the key design and material issues and attributes that attend the type.

Other Resources

In addition to the wealth of materials available in libraries, there many on-line sites that can add to an appreciation of war memorial designs. Two Canadian sources are especially relevant:

National Defence / National Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials

<http://www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dhh-dhp/nic-inm/index-eng.asp>

This site has three useful areas of content: a Glossary of Terms, a downloadable poster and a section that allows visitors to search for a memorial. Currently, there are 6,696 memorials posted on this website. A broad search for all memorials in Manitoba loads quickly and in the Background Information field provides the community name of each monument. This is a work in progress, but there are some entries that provide the names on monuments.

War Monuments in Canada

<https://www.cdli.ca/monuments/>

This national website, hosted by Newfoundland and Labrador's Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation, contains useful information on selected memorial sites across Canada. Funding for the project ended in 2000, and the project was never completed. Only 46 of the 201 Manitoba memorials are included in this project, but those 46 do contain good, and even excellent, information, sometimes including archival images, inscription texts and names of the lost.

The site is especially useful for projects that compare Manitoba sites to others across Canada.

Activities

- Look up your local war memorial in the 1996 Manitoba inventory. There will be an image and texts.
- Compare that memorial with the types in "Guide to Manitoba Memorials." Is it a tablet, cairn, obelisk, cenotaph, statue, or an architectural creation?
- How does your local war memorial compare with others of this type in Manitoba? Each opening section for each type contains some suggestions about what to look for.
- How does your local war memorial compare with others of this type in other provinces of Canada? It is sometimes interesting to compare Manitoba with places further east — Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Inscriptions and Texts

Each entry in Patrick Morican's updated 1996 inventory of Manitoba war memorials, included as part of this project, contains the various inscriptions and texts that are part of many memorials. These may take the form of scriptural references, poems or standard phrases well regarded at the time.

Certain of the more interesting inscriptions and texts used on Manitoba memorials are noted below.

Activities

- Have students copy down the various inscriptions used to introduce or contextualize your local memorial.
- Refer to the samples below for use as comparisons.
- Which ones do they prefer? Why? What do the inscriptions mean?
- What kinds of sentiments are conveyed by the inscription? The following collection is broadly grouped according to one of five categories: Gratitude; Exhortation; Patriotism; Regret; Religious sentiment. Many contain a mix of one of two or more of these sentiments in one inscription.
- What else can students learn about the inscription? Is it part of a poem or speech, or from the Bible? (Hint: try entering the text into a search engine and see if anything comes up.)
- Looking back from the present time, do the inscriptions still ring true?

GRATITUDE

Amaranth

TO THOSE WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE
OUR HONOURED FEW WE'LL NE'ER FORGET
WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM, LOST, AND YET
GAVE US THE PEACE THAT WE ENJOY.
DO REST IN PEACE OUR DISTRICT "BOYS"

Binscarth and Others

THEY GAVE THEIR TODAY FOR OUR TOMORROW

Birtle

HE THAT LOSETH HIS LIFE SHALL FIND IT

Carman (and others)

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS

Dominion City

LET NONE FORGET
THEY GAVE THEIR ALL
AND FALTERED NOT
WHEN CAME THE CALL

Elm Creek

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOREVER

Emerson

THEY WILL NEVER KNOW THE BEAUTY OF
THIS PLACE, SEE THE SEASONS CHANGE,
ENJOY NATURE'S CHORUS. ALL WE ENJOY WE OWE TO
THEM, MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIE BURIED IN THE
EARTH OF FOREIGN LANDS AND IN THE SEVEN
SEAS.. DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF CANADIANS
WHO DIED OVERSEAS IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR
COUNTRY AND SO PRESERVED OUR HERITAGE.

FOR CANADA AND THE EMPIRE.
THE PATH OF DUTY WAS THE WAY TO GLORY

Garson (and others)

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING WE SHALL
REMEMBER THEM

Griswold

ERECTED
TO THE MEMORY OF THE MEN OF GRISWOLD
AND DISTRICT WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES
ON THE ALTAR OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY
IN THE GREAT EUROPEAN WAR

Miami

TO LIVE IN HEARTS WE LEAVE BEHIND IS NOT TO DIE

Harding

HONOUR AND LOVING MEMORY
TO THOSE WHO DIED.
HONOUR ALSO AND GRATEFUL TRIBUTE
TO THOSE WHO, DARING TO DIE,
SURVIVED

Minitonas (and others)

THEY DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE

Minto

IN MEMORY
OF OUR HONORED DEAD
WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES
IN THE GREAT WAR
AS A SACRIFICE
ON THE ALTAR OF FREEDOM

Morris (and others)

TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO
PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE
IN THE GREAT WAR

Roland

A TRIBUTE TO THE VALIANT LIVING
A MEMORIAL TO THE HEROIC DEAD

St. Laurent

THOSE WHO DIED
THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD
AS WE ARE LEFT TO GROW OLD
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE
SUN AND IN THE MORNING
WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM

Winnipeg - Cenotaph

THEIR BODIES ARE
BURIED IN PEACE BUT
THEIR NAME LIVETH
FOR EVERMORE

Winnipeg – St. Vital

DEDICATED
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN
OF SAINT VITAL
WHO BY THEIR NOBLE
DEEDS AND SACRIFICES
HELPED TO PRESERVE
OUR COUNTRY'S FREEDOM
WHO MORE THAN SELF
THEIR COUNTRY LOVED
AND MERCY MORE THAN LIFE

EXHORTATION

Balmoral (and others)

THEIR MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. OURS BUT BEGUN

Douglas (1 text of 3)

BESTOW NOT ON THE
DEAD YOUR PRAISE
THEY HEED IT NOT
ABOVE.
THE MEN WHO LIVE
AND SUFFER
ARE THEY WHO NEED
YOUR LOVE.
THE VERY STONES
CRY OUT TO US,
TOO LONG
HAVE WE DELAYED,
THE DEBT OF HONOUR
FACES US,
AND THAT DEBT
MUST BE PAID.

Emerson (and others)

THEY GAVE THEIR TOMORROW FOR YOUR TODAY

Killarney

ELOQUENT DEAD
WE WILL NOT LET YOU DIE

Oakbank/Dugald

THIS IS THE ROLL OF HONOUR OF THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY
OF SPRINGFIELD, PROVINCE OF MANITOBA, AND THE NAMES
INSCRIBED ARE THE NAMES OF THE BRAVE AND EVER
HONOURED MEN WHO FROM WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF THE
MUNICIPALITY ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL TO ARMS
AND JOINED THE FORCES FIGHTING OVERSEAS IN THE
GLORIOUS CAUSE OF MAINTAINING THAT FREEDOM FOR WHICH
THEIR FORBEARS FOUGHT AND IN DOING THIS SECURING AN
EQUAL FREEDOM IN THE FUTURE FOR ALL NATIONS BESIDES
OURSELVES IN THE TRUE INTEREST OF DEMOCRACY.
MAY THE RESULTS ACHIEVED BE THE LASTING MEMORIAL OF
WHICH THIS IS BUT THE TOKEN!

Virden

LET US
HIGHLY RESOLVE
THAT THE DEAD
SHALL NOT HAVE
DIED IN VAIN

PATRIOTISM

Clanwilliam and others

FOR KING AND COUNTRY

Kelwood

THESE FELL IN DEFENCE OF HOME AND COUNTRY

Roland

DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO PAID
THE SUPREME SACRIFICE FOR THE HONOR
AND FREEDOM OF OUR EMPIRE IN
THE GREAT WORLD WAR . . .

Manitou

DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI
(How Sweet and Fitting it is to Die for One's Country)

Russell

THOSE WHOM THIS MONUMENT
COMMEMORATES WERE NUMBERED AMONG
THOSE WHO AT THE CALL OF KING
AND COUNTRY LEFT ALL THAT WAS DEAR
TO THEM, ENDURED HARDNESS, FACED DANGER,
AND FINALLY PASSED OUT OF THE SIGHT
OF MEN BY THE PATH OF DUTY AND
SELF SACRIFICE, GIVING UP THEIR OWN LIVES
THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE IN FREEDOM.
LET THOSE THAT COME AFTER SEE TO IT
THAT THEIR NAMES BE NOT FORGOTTEN.

REGRET

Douglas (1 text of 3)

RIGHTEOUS HEAVEN!
IN THY GREAT DAY OF VENGEANCE
BLAST THE TRAITOR
AND HIS PERILOUS COUNCILS
WHO FOR WEALTH
FOR POWER, THE PRIDE
OF GREATNESS OR REVENGE
WOULD PLUNGE THIS NATIVE LAND
IN CRUEL WAR

Margaret (and others)

IN FLANDERS FIELDS THE POPPIES BLOW
BETWEEN THE CROSSES ROW ON ROW
THAT MARK OUR PLACE AND IN THE SKY
THE LARKS STILL BARELY SINGING FLY
SCARCE HEARD AMIDST THE GUNS BELOW
WE ARE THE DEAD. SHORT DAYS AGO WE LIVED
FELT DAWN, SAW SUNSET GLOW, LOVED AND WERE LOVED
AND NOW WE LIE IN FLANDERS FIELDS

Winnipeg – University of Manitoba Engineering Building

HOW CAN A MAN DIE BETTER THAN FACING FEARFUL ODDS
FOR THE ASHES OF HIS FATHERS AND THE TEMPLES OF HIS GODS?

Winnipeg – University of Manitoba Agriculture Building

NOTHING IS HERE FOR TEARS, NOTHING TO WAIL
NOTHING BUT WELL AS FAIR
AND WHAT MAY QUIET US IN A DEATH SO NOBLE

RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT

Cartwright

THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES
UNTO DEATH THEREFORE THEY
ARE BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD

Douglas (1 text of 3)

THEY DIED UNNOTICED
IN THE MUDDY TRENCH,
NAY! GOD WAS WITH THEM,
AND THEY DID NOT BLENCH,
FILLED THEM WITH HOLY FIRES
THAT NAUGHT COULD QUENCH
AND WHEN HE SAW THEIR WORK
ON EARTH WAS DONE
HE GENTLY CALLED TO THEM
MY SONS, MY SONS

Winnipeg - Transcona

GIVE PEACE IN OUR TIME O LORD.

Battle Names

Many Manitoba memorials feature the names of World War I battles, with locations like:

- Vimy Ridge
- Somme
- Amiens
- Passchendaele
- Hill 70
- Mons
- Ypres
- Neuve Chapelle
- Festubert
- Givenchy
- St. Eloi
- Sanctuary Wood
- Arras
- Canal Du Nord
- Cambrai
- Valenciennes

These names are interesting in themselves. Some are the names of towns or rivers near where battles raged (for example, Amiens, Somme); some are names given to specific strategic spots by the military leadership (Hill 70); others are unofficial names used by soldiers (Sanctuary Wood, so called because, early in the war, soldiers sheltered there while trying to get back to their units). These place names describe battles ranging from repeated or months-long struggles, such as Ypres (widely known to English-speaking soldiers as Wipers) or the Somme, to small parts of a larger battle that might appear on the same memorial (for example, Sanctuary Wood, Cambrai and Passchendaele were all parts of the multiple battles over the Ypres Salient, while Vimy Ridge was part of the Battle of Arras). In these latter cases, the specific battles listed were those in which Canadians played a particularly important role, and, usually, where many Canadian lives were lost.

Other Resources

There are two good on-line resources that deal with this subject from a Canadian perspective:

Canadian War Museum

The Canadian War Museum website is an excellent resource for information on World War I Battles, under a link called "Battles and Fighting."

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/cost-war-e.aspx>

This feature of the museum site includes rich information on many key battles, as well as content on weapons, tactics and logistics.

Veterans Affairs Canada

The Veterans Affairs Canada website has some internal links focusing on battle sites:

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/information-for/educators>

There are four major battles presented with basic information:

- Battle of Passchendaele
- Battles of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel
- Battle of Vimy Ridge
- Last Hundred Days

Activities

- Determine whether any battle sites are identified on your local war memorial.
- Have students look these up on the sites noted above.
- Have students develop short descriptions based on this information.
- By learning where, or at least when, the people listed on some monuments were killed, students may be able to determine whether they were involved in the battles listed.

Memorialized Names

The names listed on a local war memorial are a key way to connect youth to this major event in Canadian history. The very personal associations that can be made, via small details but also via photographs and information about military experiences, and, finally the death of an individual, build empathy and help bring the past to life.

There are many excellent websites and resources that can help students learn about these men and women, and thus put into context the courage and sacrifice of people who, though distant in time, were not, after all, very different from themselves, and often not so much older. One approach is to have a student select a name and then do research to see what they can find out about that person.

Some especially good resources are noted below. These websites have been selected because they feature good sections on individual soldiers and the experience of life at the front. The sites also invariably include a wealth of information on other aspects of World War I that can be used by students as they explore this subject.

Manitoba Historical Society Website

http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/sites/index_monuments.shtml#military

Nearly all of the entries for individual war memorials on this website have recently been supplemented with information on the people identified on the memorial. This often includes birth and death years, occupation at time of enlistment, service details and death date. The service details can be especially useful for tracking individuals according to the kind of data preferred by military history sites (for example 44th Battalion Canadian Infantry, or 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles, or Royal Air Force, etc.).

Canada at War

<http://www.canadaatwar.ca/memorial/world-war-i/>

This major site features 63,322 records on 634 pages. Individual records include service number, rank, regiment, death date, and European cemetery or memorial location. Some entries also feature brief biographical information and the names of “fallen buddies” from the same regiment who may have died on the same day. Other parts of the site feature photographs, battle information, facts and timelines, etc.

Canadian War Museum

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/cost-war-e.aspx>

This major Canadian website has a whole section devoted to teacher support materials:

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/teacher-res-e.aspx>

This part of the site has lesson plans, book lists, photographs, documents, and additional links. Notable areas include: Artifacts Tell Stories; Photographs as History; Propaganda Posters; and Conscription Debate.

Canadian Virtual War Memorial

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial>

This major site of Veterans Affairs Canada will provide some basic information on individuals if you have the name. The Manitoba Historical Society website noted above offers this information more easily. At the same time the Virtual War Memorial site features some other useful links:

Remembering Those Who Served

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/those-who-served>

This section of the site offers information organized by ethnic origins, including Aboriginals, African-Canadians, Chinese Canadians, etc. There is also a feature on Women and War and sections that include diaries, letters and stories – useful for context.

Link for Educators

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/information-for/educators>

There is a wealth of information here, available for printing, computer presentations and even as videos.

Regimental Rogue Website

<http://regimentalrogue.com/>

http://regimentalrogue.com/misc/researching_first_world_war_soldiers_part5.htm

This is a very rich site, with a wealth of information and links to a variety of support subjects. A section entitled “Researching Canadian Soldiers of the First World War” will be of special value for students. “Part 5: Casualties” includes information on many Manitoba victims of the war. Depending on the maturity of the students, it may be possible to provide information from the Particulars of Death forms (some of these can be gruesome in their details so a teacher preview is highly recommended).

Canadian Great War Project

<http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/index.asp>

This website contains various war and casualty statistics. There is a section devoted to Canadian Nursing Sisters, with a complete list of the 2,854 women who served with the Canadian Army Medical Corps during the war.

Canadian War Museum

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/cost-war-e.aspx>

The Canadian War Museum website is an excellent resource for information on a host of subjects relating to World War I. The site includes a very rich section on Teacher Resources, including lesson plans, book lists, photographs and documents, and additional links:

<http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/teacher-res-e.aspx>

Activities

- Have each student select one name from the local memorial list. If the class size is too large consider doing this work in small groups.
- Have students review all of the sites noted above to collect as much information about their selected soldier as they can. Consider the following questions to guide this research: Where was the soldier or nurse born? How old was he or she at death? In which battle did the soldier or nurse die? If appropriate, how did they die?; What were the circumstances of the battle? Are there statistics and other stories about that battle?
- The section of this report called “Local World War I Stories” may provide some additional background.
- If available, have students look at class photographs or lists for the years leading up to the war, to see if they can find the fallen soldiers when they were school age.

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Garnier at work: <http://www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/historic/pdf-consv/Provencher0-long.pdf>

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bigadore/5487020786/in/set-72157626042961167>

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<http://city.brockville.on.ca/images/sitepics/heritage/cultural%20heritage/war%20memorial/1920%20War%20Memorial%202.jpg>

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Guide to Manitoba Memorial Types

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Egyptian Stele: <http://forum.egyptiandreams.co.uk/viewtopic.php?t=4568>

Cairns

Scottish Cairn: <http://neilshillblog.blogspot.ca/2011/07/cairn-table.html>

Obelisks

Obelisk of Theodosius:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AHippodrome_Constantinople_2007_007.jpg (By Gryffindor (Own work) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons)

Cenotaphs

London Cenotaph: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AUK-2014-London-The_Cenotaph.jpg (By Godot13 (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)], via Wikimedia Commons)

Statues

Ottawa War Memorial:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_War_Memorial_\(Canada\)#mediaviewer/File:Base_of_National_War_Memorial.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_War_Memorial_(Canada)#mediaviewer/File:Base_of_National_War_Memorial.jpg) (By D. Gordon E. Robertson (Own work) [CC-

BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>) or GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>), via Wikimedia Commons)

Standard Canadian Uniform: <http://battlefields1418.50megs.com/uniform3.htm>

Men in Uniform with Webbing:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ww1can/equip.htm>

Local World War I Stories

Binscarth

The Funeral of Sister Margaret Lowe: veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance)