



EBENEZER, TORONTO GORE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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Newsletter February, 2017

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of

Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation

will be held at the

Ebenezer Chapel

8999 The Gore Road and Ebenezer Road

Brampton, Ontario

Saturday, March 11, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Heather Broadbent

“Before and After Hurricane Hazel”

Audience participation will be encouraged.

A light lunch will be served after the meeting.

Overflow parking in the plaza east of the chapel

Membership

A reminder that we are always happy to accept applications for new members to the Foundation. \$20 single and couple.

Please complete the enclosed form on page 6 and return it to:

Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation

8999 The Gore Road

Brampton, Ontario L6P 2P7

A reminder to current members to renew your 2017 membership. If you have already done so, Thank you.

Honouring Toronto Gore Veterans Who Served in World War One

As 2017 is the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge in France we thought it appropriate to honour some of the Toronto Gore men who fought in France during World War I. It is difficult to know exactly where the men fought while they were in France but as Vimy Ridge is a monument to all the Canadian soldiers who fought in WWI, it is an excellent time to remember all those who put their lives on hold or in some cases gave up their lives to fight for Canada during WWI.

Fennell Thompson Julian: Fennell was attending University of Toronto when he enlisted in January, 1916 at the age of 19. He departed for England November 5, 1916 and left England for France on May 16, 1917. In April of 1918 he was gassed and was sent back to England for treatment. He returned to Canada in 1919 still suffering the after effects of the gas.

John (Jack) Alexander Parr: Jack was a farmer in Toronto Gore when he was called up in 1917. As the war dragged on in Europe soldiers were desperately needed to carry on the fight. Men who had previously been exempt because of their status as farmers were now being asked to enlist. Jack was one of these men. He had his medical on November 17, 1917 and left for England soon after.

CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
Discharge Certificate

This is to Certify that No. 507271 (Rank) Spr.
Name (in full) JULIAN Fennell Thompson enlisted in
the Signal Training Depot
CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE at Toronto, Ont. on the 4th
day of August 1916
HE served in England and France
and is now discharged from the service by reason of Medically unfit

THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS SOLDIER on the DATE below is as follows :-
Age 22 Marks or Scars
Height 5'9 1/2" Wasc. scars on left arm
Complexion medium Wounded Dec 8-9-18
Eyes Grey
Hair Brown
Signature of Soldier J. J. Julian
Issuing Officer [Signature]
Rank [Signature]
Date of Discharge Jan. 24th 1919
Appointment
Signed at Toronto, Ont. this 24th day of January 1919
in Military District No. 24
File Reference No. JB.

N.B.—As no duplicate of this Certificate will be issued, any person finding same is requested to forward it in an unstamped envelope to the Secretary, Militia Council, Ottawa, Canada.

M. P. W. 39
800—4-14
E.L.Q. 1778-39-522

Photo Right: Fennell Julian's Discharge Certificate

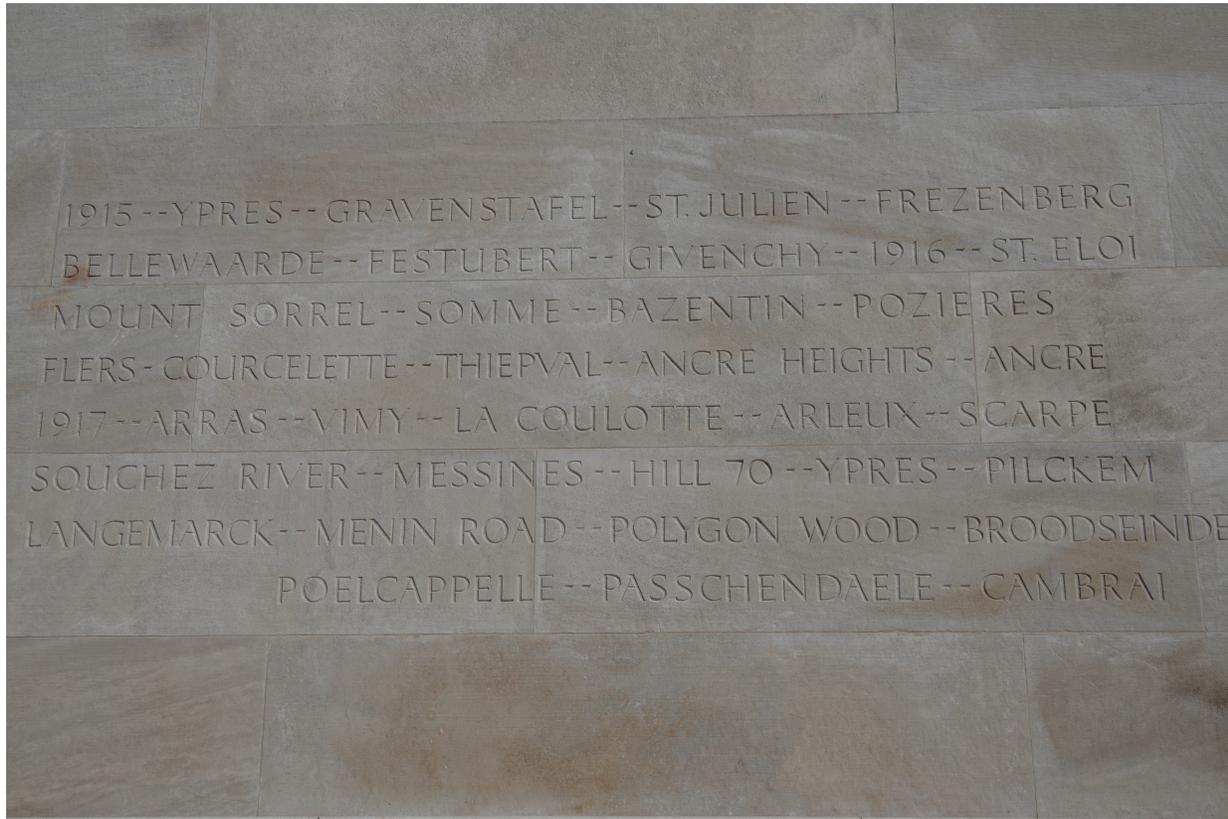


Photo left of Wilfred Fitzpatrick's Great War for Civilisation 1914-1918 Medal

Wilfred Laurier Fitzpatrick: Wilfred was another young farmer who was called up late in the war. He trained in Canada, arrived in England on August 8, 1918 and landed in France on October 30, 1918, shortly before Armistice Day on November 11, 1918.

Herbert Stanley Maltby: Herbert enlisted in Brampton in December of 1915 with the 126th Peel Battalion. He landed in Liverpool on August 24, 1916. Later he was transferred to the 116 Overseas Battalion and earned the rank of Corporal.

Leroy Stanley Livingston: Leroy enlisted in 1918 along with his brother **Robert William Livingston**. Leroy arrived in England on August 8, 1918. He served in France and Belgium and earned the rank of Sergeant. He was demobilized on July 11, 1919.



This photograph is from the monument at Vimy Ridge. It shows the areas where Canadian troops fought in Belgium and France.

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Please mark this date on your calendars

Saturday February 11th 2017,

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come and check out our Highlights on Heritage display at

Bramalea City Centre, The Bay Court (west end)

Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation extends our deepest sympathy to the family of Ron Raffan. Ron, a long-time Brampton resident, volunteered at many organizations preserving and promoting the City of Brampton Heritage. Ron was the Web Master of our Foundation. (www.oldebenezerchapel.com.) Ron's commitment to "heritage" was recognised in 2012 when he was awarded the prestigious Award of Merit from the Ontario Heritage Trust. Ron was also the chair of the board of the Peel Family Education Centre, volunteered at the Literacy North Halton helping adult students improve their reading and writing skills, and with the Brampton Soccer and Hockey teams as his son and daughter were growing up. Ron was 73. He will be missed.

Ebenezer United Church Cemetery

By Ann (Fieldhouse) Price

I suspect, like me, that people driving by cemeteries wonder if there are relatives or people that they once knew may be buried there.

A friend of mine, who lives here in Alliston and who drives by Ebenezer Cemetery every day to go to work, asked me if there are any tombstones with the name "Palmer". I suggested that she go on line to "*Ebenezer Toronto Gore Cemetery*" and check out her name on the list. There are also photos of every grave in Ebenezer Cemetery on that web site.

The cemetery at Ebenezer holds a special place in my heart because my grandparents are buried there and their tombstone is my reminder of them. My grandmother, Annie Jane (Jefferson) Fieldhouse, died on December 7th, 1941 at the age of 78. Three days later on December 10th, my grandfather, Benjamin Fieldhouse, died at the age of 81, it is said, of a broken heart. I was only four years old when they died but I remember them, sitting in their arm chairs one on each side of the kitchen window by the wood stove, looking out onto the driveway, my grandfather reading the bible and my grandmother knitting. That is all I remember about them. They owned the farm where the Ebenezer church stands.

As in many churches over the years, (and probably still), romances also blossomed in the Ebenezer church congregations. One such romance that I remember was the hired man of Ira Champline, Domenico (Tony) Dechiara, and Mary Cook, the housekeeper of the Peacock family who owned the next farm to the north. Tony and Mary were married in Ebenezer Church and attended the Sunday services for many years after their nuptials. They are both buried in Ebenezer Cemetery and their tombstone records their births and deaths.

The first Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Church, made of mud bricks, was built on the present site in 1848. The lot was deeded to the community by Ann and James Sleightholm Sr. to be utilized for a church site and cemetery, for the small sum of five shillings -

virtually a gift. The first two recorded burials in Ebenezer Cemetery were also in 1848, and were John and James Smith, the young step-sons of James Sleightholm, sons of his wife Ann.

At one time there were very old white tombstones at the north side of the church. During fowl suppers and in the famous Garden Party era, I remember playing hide-and-seek behind these stones with other children in the community. There were lots of us running around in the dark scaring each other silly.

After suffering years of snow, rain and wind storms, the tombstones that were on the north side of the church were often found lying broken on the ground. Consequently, for safe keeping, in the early 1970's Ira Champline and my father Harry Fieldhouse gathered the tombstones and made the cairn that is still in the cemetery on the east side. (They also made a cairn of the damaged stones at the Hilltop Cemetery which is located about a mile south of Ebenezer church on The Gore Road.)

Three years ago we were pleased that great-great-granddaughters of Francis and Sara Sleightholm, Sara Woodley and Melissa Sleightholm, attended our *E'TGHF* Annual General Meeting. Sara brought with her a formal photograph of her great-great-grandparents Francis Sleightholm, born 1824 and died in 1902, and Sarah (Allison) Sleightholm, 1826 to 1907. Their tombstone is still standing tall in Ebenezer Cemetery. Francis was one of the first trustees of Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Church.

On another occasion, we received an email from Sheldon Sleightholm, a great-grandson of James Sleightholm Jr. and Rachel (Ellerby) Sleightholm. Sheldon, who lives in Hawaii, was looking up his roots and found the *Ebenezer' Toronto Gore Historical Foundation* web site and contacted us. Sheldon's great-grandparents are noted many times in the History of Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Church on The Gore. In later years, Rachel and James Sleightholm Jr. moved to Shelburne and they are buried in the Shelburne Cemetery, on Highway #10 north of the town.

Cemeteries are so very interesting. If you have a story about someone you knew who is buried in Ebenezer Cemetery, please send it along to us. oldebenezerchapel@gmail.com

Book News

The final cut off date for the *E'TGHF* book about The Toronto Gore Township is fast approaching.

Canada is celebrating 100 Years of Hockey
1917 – 2017

Two teams from Toronto Gore Township won the Perkins Bull Trophy of the North Peel Hockey Association. The Wildfield Shamrocks won in the 1955 - 1956 season and Tullamore won in the 1958 – 1959 season.

The Ebenezer Chapel Has Space to Rent!

The Ebenezer Chapel is available to rent. So far we have rented to weddings, bridal showers, baby showers, anniversaries, business meetings, family reunions, school reunions, church services, youth gatherings and Vacation School for children.

The cost is \$50 an hour with a two hour minimum.

To find out more, contact us at 905-867-3101 or email us at oldebenezerchapel@gmail.com.

Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation
Application for Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Additional Household Members: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____ 2016

Membership fee of \$20 for single and one couple is for one financial year (March to March).
(**receipt** given)

An additional donation to the Foundation of \$ _____
(**income tax receipt** will be given)