



Friends of
**LINCOLN'S
HISTORY**

NEWSLETTER

Fall Issue

November 17, 2023



Members are encouraged to send in family stories, histories, pictures. Email us at lincolnarchives@gmail.com. Please think about making a donation of old documents or pictures to the Archives. We are collecting for future generations to enjoy and learn from. Please visit our website where you can now view all our newsletters. You can also see us on Facebook.

Website: www.lincolnarchives.ca

Email: lincolnarchives@gmail.com

Friends of Lincoln's History on Facebook

This newsletter is produced by Karen Hughes, a volunteer at the Archives. Send questions to lincolnarchives@gmail.com

Friends of LINCOLN'S HISTORY BOARD NEWS

Annual General Meeting & Guest Speaker

December 5, 2023 at the Beacon

The annual general meeting will start at 6:15 for Reports, Election of Officers and associated administrative items. Our Guest Speaker is scheduled to start at 7:00 pm, followed by a question and answer session.

Our next Speaker event will be a local resident and Friends of Lincoln's History member, Jay Moyer. Along with him will be his brother Norman and Lt. Colonel (Ret'd) Robert Christopher. They will be speaking about Jay B. Moyer who served and died at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. **See Page 5 for further details.**

Our new website is nearing completion. We are hoping for an early December launch date. A Big thank you to Gary Dandridge for all his hard work, on both the website and the installation of our new computers.

Membership Renewal—It's that time of year again. To renew please fill out page 6 of this newsletter and send it along with your payment to the address below You could also bring it long with you when you come to the speaker event on Dec 5th.

***Friends of Lincoln's History (Archives)* located at 4280 Victoria Avenue North, Vineland Station, Ontario L0R 2E0
Located in the lower level of the old Lodge Building #6 on the Campus of the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre
Open each Wednesday from 9 am to 3 pm, or by appointment. Call us at (905) 562-4242**

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE

By: George Grant

As we lay in our little dug out
Both my chum and I, to-day
We send you this little message
To pass the time away.
We know you're always thinking,
No matter where we roam,
So give them kind remembrance
Althru we're away from home

A sudden change comes o'er the scene
The enemy's guns are heard.
We leave our little dug-out
Without a single word.
We watch and wait for orders
From our Captain, loud and clear,
For up goes the cry of "Advance Boys!"
To the sound of ringing cheer.

When smoke from the shells had lifted,
And the guns were silenced once more,
My tho'ts were for my comrade,
How he'd stood by my side before,
At last to my amazement,
I beheld him kneeling there.
He was dressed a wounded soldier
With a tenderness and care.

Some day we'll be parted for ever,
Maybe on some foreign shore.
There will always linger a memory
Of those bygone days of yore..
We will wish you good luck and happiness,
Wherever you may be
Even tho it be in the homeland
Or far across the sea.

SOMEWHERE IN LINCOLN



Picture above - October 1915 An officer riding in front of Snure's General store in Jordan. Picture below shows troops marching through Vineland in 1915.



Daily Trench Routine

From the Canadian War Museum

"Stand to" at Dawn

Each dawn, the usual time for an enemy attack, soldiers woke to "stand-to", guarding their front line trenches. Afterwards, if there had been an assault, they gathered for inspections, breakfast, and the daily rum ration.

Day-to-Day Work

Following morning stand-to, inspection, and breakfast, soldiers undertook any number of chores, ranging from cleaning latrines to filling sandbags or repairing duckboards. During daylight hours, they conducted all work below ground and away from the snipers' rifles. In between work fatigues, there was often time for leisure activities. Soldiers read, kept journals, wrote letters or gambled.

Dangerous Nighttime Activity

Nighttime in the trenches was both the busiest and the most dangerous. Under cover of darkness, soldiers often climbed out of their trenches and moved into No Man's Land, the blasted landscape separating the two armies. Here, work parties repaired barbed wire or dug new trenches. More aggressive operations involved patrolling for enemy activity or conducting raids to kill or capture enemy troops or to gather intelligence.

THE WAR IS OVER

From the Beamsville Express November 18, 1918.

Terms of Armistice accepted by Germany

Signed 5:40 fighting ended at 11 am.

Beamsville celebrated in afternoon—Holiday Proclaimed

Shortly before eight o'clock Monday morning the first bell pealed forth to Beamsville the glad message that Germany had signed the armistice terms and that the war was over. Many had heard the news much earlier in the morning, but the bells and whistles spread news at that time.

After the false news which was so thoroughly and joyously celebrated here last Thursday, it was thought by some that the former enthusiasm could not be repeated, but they were sadly mistaken as evidenced by the splendid parade in the afternoon.

Shortly after the news was received Reeve Garlett visited the different places and proclaimed a public holiday. A meeting was held in the Town Hall and a committee was appointed to arrange for the celebration in the afternoon.

The public and high schools held a thanksgiving service in the morning in the schoolroom of the Presbyterian Church, where short addresses were given by the different ministers of the town and the principals of both schools.

The residents hung out their flags and bunting. They had a splendid parade, consisting of decorated autos and rigs. The Citizens' Band played at 2:20 pm. An effigy of the Kaiser in a coffin was paraded through town and was burned during the evening celebration. At the Bank corner the parade disbanded and here short addresses and were given, interspersed with the singing of the Doxology and the National Anthem. It was a great day of rejoicing—the biggest and best of Beamsville has ever seen. It was also a day of thanksgiving to the God of Battles for what had been achieved. It seemed to be glad to sing the wonderful acknowledgment of the Divine position in the great piece of world history.

Buy Victory Bonds, for there is a serious work yet ahead of the government to get back to normal.

Some excerpts of letters H. Kenneth Moyer sent home to his mother from Siberia during WWI.

June 5, 1918 - Niagara on the Lake - Received pay of \$17.00 today. Transferred to "D" Co. A draft of 85 men left Saturday.

Oct. 20, 1918—RMS Empress of Japan—Have been on the ocean since Oct. 11th and it will be 5 more days until we get to Siberia. Have been very sea sick. I would never want to be a sailor. I only want one more trip on the ocean and that is back to Canada.

Dec. 30, 1918—Somewhere in Siberia—No doubt you have received my picture showing our Siberian winter outfit. We have a fur cap, long sheepskin lined coat, heavy socks, moccasins and muffler goggles. Christmas here, our barracks was nicely decorated with a small tree and paper decorations.

Jan. 2, 1919—Siberia—So little we can tell that it makes it so hard to write. Letters are censored.

Jan. 11, 1919—From "Somewhere in Siberia" - In Siberia for the past 2 1/2 months and may spend most of the year here. Saw a clipping from the Globe that a chum of mine got. It said that the boys would be allowed to come home within a year from the signing of the armistice if they want, and believe me most of them want to.

Feb. 2, 1919—Siberia—It is quite lonesome so far from home when you have to wait so long for mail. I just got your letters from Nov. 1 and 8th, 1918.

Feb. 4, 1919—I have been away from girls for so long. There are no girls here for there are plenty, such as they are, but they don't appeal to me. Working in the hospital kitchen from 6:30 am to 6 pm.

Feb. 9, 1919—From what we hear from Canada and England the people seem to be doing a lot of kicking about us being over here. That letter from the paper you sent by Gen. Newburn sounds alright to anyone that doesn't know about the conditions here. I suppose all the boys from England and France are home. We will be forgotten altogether.

Feb. 20, 1919—Siberia—We hear a lot about the boys coming home from England bringing brides along. That is one thing about this expedition, there won't be many brides from here. They don't appeal to Canadian like the English and French lassies would. It is a little more pleasurable to write now that the censorship has lifted.

April 11, 1919—Vladivostok, Siberia—There are boats leaving every few days, but I am not one of the lucky ones. The sargent cook was in the hospital, so my chum and I took charge of cooking. We had gruel, tea and cooked eggs. Today is Palm Sunday and I was down at the YMCA. I was standing at the corner and noted a peculiar custom. Everyone was carrying a bunch of Pussy Willows.

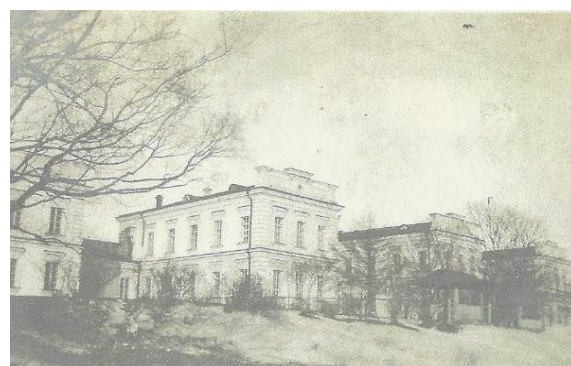
May 8, 1919—Still in Siberia.—There is a boat leaving here in early June and I should be home sometime in July.

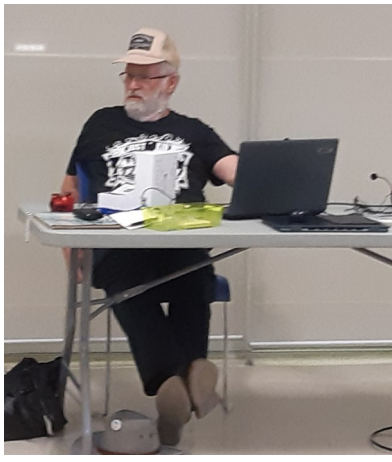


Picture on left—H. Kenneth Moyer

Picture below: Kenneth Moyer on horse pulled cart in Vladivostok, Siberia

Bottom far right—Hospital where he worked in the kitchen.





The *Friends of Lincoln's History* wish to thank all of our members, family, friends, and neighbours who came out to our last speaker event, we had a great turn out. The meeting was held on October 17th at the Fleming Centre in Beamsville. Also, a big thank you to John Allan for his riveting presentation on the Aerodrome in Beamsville.



Rockway School

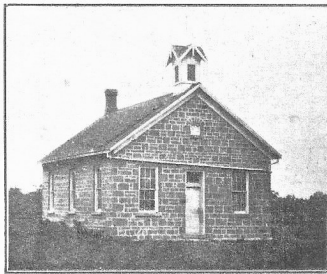
The first school was located on Lot 15 in Concession 8 Louth. It was first used in 1814 and was built of logs by early settlers. The building was 18 square feet, with one door and three windows. It was heated by a stone fireplace. This school was controlled by the pioneers in the community. Every family gave what they could for maintenance of the building, the teacher and other expenses. Those who could afford, gave 25 cents per month for each child. The teacher boarded with families, a week at a time. School hours were 8 am—5 pm Monday to Saturday for 6 months of the year. Teachers generally taught in the winter for 6 months and then worked for the farmer in the summer months.

The teaching was mostly the three "R" system. There was a first class, a readers class and also a fourth class. Books were scarce. Sometimes a newspaper was used to teach reading. The bible was also used as a class book every day. History and geography were sparingly taught orally. Writing was done with home-made ink and quill pens.

In 1830 a new school was built just opposite where the present school is situated. This school was 24 square feet, built with lumber and was heated with a stove. There was 5 days of teaching 8 am to 4 pm. Gradually more classes were made, a better supply of books were bought, and young ladies were hired part of the time. Some of these teachers were graduates from the school. They received \$10.00 per month and also did sweeping and dusting.

In 1872 this second school building was condemned. In early 1873, 1/2 acre of land was bought for \$70 and a new school was built in October at a cost of \$1400.00.

In 1957 the school was sold and made into a private home. It was sold again one more time in the 1960s and then it was torn down.



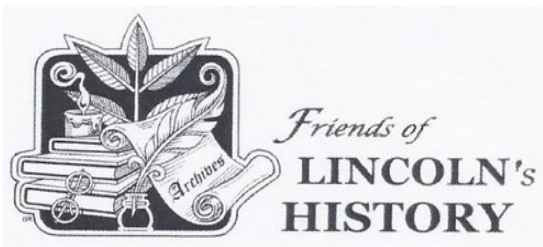
The Annual Picnic
of the
Rockway Old Boys' Association
will be held at
VICTORIA HALL, VINELAND
August 6th, 1924

Come and bring your family ☞ Sports and Prizes as usual
Dinner 12 o'clock (Standard Time)
R. J. LYNCH, 1st Vice-President MARY THOMPSON, President
MRS. WATT, 2nd Vice-President MRS. HOUSTON, Sec., Jordan Station

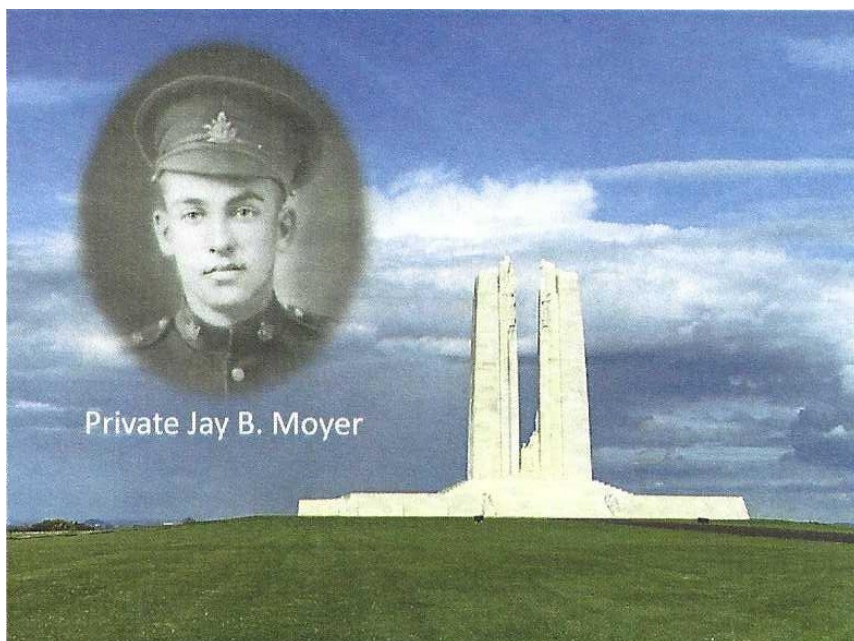
Picture below Rockway School in 1948.



Back Row L to R—Nellie Sisler(Nelson), Evelyn Vyse, Bessie Lyons (Gilmore), Harold Peacock, Lawrence Cosby, Roy Vyse, Roy Peacock, Lloyd Peacock, Lloyd Sisler, Teacher—Vera Penty (Haallett) **Second Row L to R**—Betty Hallett (Saint), Marg Kettner, Velma Sisler (Lane), Arthur Peacock, Jack Lethby, Ernie Lethby, Dick Vyse, Herb Vyse, Kenneth Oill. **Front Row L to R**—Elsie Peacock (Hildebrandt), Emily Vyse, Edith Vyse, Doris Lethby (Foster), Vera Sisler (melmoth), Angeline Sisler (MacNinch), Dora Lethby (More), George ??, Murray Hallett, Lyle Staff, George Peacock and absent: Lavelle Staff.



Friends of Lincoln's History: December Speaker Event



Vimy Ridge and Canadians in The Great War: An Inside Perspective

Jay Moyer, a Lincoln resident, retired senior executive of Moyer Diebel and a FLH member, has donated family letters and WWI memorabilia to our Archives regarding his uncle, Private Jay B. Moyer, and his journey in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Private Moyer's letters to his family represent his WWI experiences from recruitment and training in Toronto in 1915 to his arrival in England, posting in France, and participation in the battle at Vimy Ridge in April 1917, during which he was Killed in Action.

Jay will be providing a perspective of his uncle's experiences in the war, representative of a typical private.

Joining Jay and setting the stage, is **Lt. Colonel (Ret'd) Robert Christopher**, who had held numerous senior positions in the Canadian military, culminating in the promotion to CO 56th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. Lt. Col. Christopher will be providing an overview of the battle of Vimy Ridge, its military strategy, Canadian 1st Division leader Arthur Currie, and the impact of Canada's participation.

Providing the after-story is **Norman Moyer**, also the nephew of Private Jay B. Moyer. In addition to holding numerous senior posts in the Public Service of Canada, he was Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Heritage, and planned and took part in the designation of Vimy as a Canadian National Historic site in 1998. Norman will be providing an overview of the Vimy Memorial and its dedication, as well as Vimy's role in the Story of Canada and nation building.

Private Jay B. Moyer's letter and memorabilia, including medals, as well as artillery objects will be displayed for review.

Date: Tuesday, December 5th, 2023

Time: 7—8:30 pm

Location: The Beacon Ramada Hotel
2703 Beacon Blvd. Jordan Station, ON

Fees: Free to all FLH paid-up Members
Non-Members welcome! \$10 to support FLH

For more information: www.friendsoflincolnhistory.ca/

Email: lincolnarchives@gmail.com Phone: 905-562-4242

Facebook— Friends of Lincoln's History Archives

Join us for this engaging, enlightening, and intimate journey!



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town and Postal Code: _____

Contact Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Single \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____

This membership renewal will be for the year 2024

Any questions please contact Ray Konkle @ ray@konkle.ca
or phone the Archives at (905) 562-4242 and leave a message.

We are open each Wednesday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Please mail your payment to:

The Friends of Lincoln's Archives

4890 Victoria Avenue N. – Box 4000,

Vineland Station, Ontario

LOR 2E0

You can also make payment by e-transfer at:

LincolnArchivespayment@gmail.com