



40th Anniversary

Seven prominent Miltonians were added to the Milton Walk of Fame and two long-time MHS volunteers received surprise recognition before the induction ceremonies officially began on Sunday, February 19, 2017, at Milton Town Hall.

Well-deserving volunteers, Bruce Carlin and Gloria Brown, were honoured by Society President, Mandy Sedgwick, and Milton Mayor, Gord Krantz, just prior to the kick-off of the tenth anniversary of the Walk of Fame, a celebration that also acknowledged the 160th anniversary of the founding of the Corporation of the Town of Milton, the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Dominion of Canada and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Society.



*Left to right - Mayor Gord Krantz, MHS members Bruce Carlin and Gloria Brown, MHS President, Mandy Sedgwick.*

*(Continued on page 2)*



## MHS ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR FOR CANADA'S 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



**The Milton Historical Society has produced a 15-month calendar in celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, Milton's 160th birthday and the Milton Historical Society's 40th birthday!**

**The calendars are available at a cost of \$10 each and feature many historic photographs of old Milton, which have never before been published.**

**To purchase yours, visit the Milton Historical Society, email [info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca) or call (905) 875-4156.**

## Milton Walk of Fame (*continued*)

Joining the Walk of Fame, which is now fifty-two members strong, are electric automobile manufacturer, the late William Anderson (1853 - 1929), whose award was accepted by Society member and family descendent, Barbara Fitzsimons, world champion highland dancer, the late Kirk Brush (1953 - 1995), whose award was accepted by his parents, Harvey and Helen Brush, national UNIFOR union president, Jerry Dias, national religious leader, The Reverend Karen (Trimble) Horst, whose award was accepted by her twin sons, international award-winning animator and author, Allison Rutland, international internet and broadcast media executive and author, Kirstine Stewart, and international cattle judge and Canadian beef industry builder, John Willmot.

"It gives me a tremendous sense of pride to honour and congratulate our latest group of Miltonians to be inducted into the Walk of Fame; individuals, who have firmly established themselves at a very high level of accomplishment on a national and/or international stage," said Mayor Krantz.

"On behalf of Milton Historical Society, congratulations to each and every one of the newest inductees to the Town of Milton Walk of Fame," said Ms. Sedgwick. "Each of these inductees has demonstrated considerable accomplishment in their respective fields of endeavour and engendered a great deal of pride in each and every Miltonian in the process."

Walk of Fame ceremony co-host, John Challinor II, asked all those in attendance to reflect for a moment on the lives and accomplishments of S.H.A.R.E. international agricultural relief founder, the late Hugh Beaty (1918 - 2015), and World War II Lancaster bomber restorer, the late Norm Etheridge (1927 - 2017). Both men had passed away since the last Walk of Fame induction ceremony took place in 2014.

Sadly, mere weeks following the community's latest Walk of Fame ceremony, two more Walk of Fame members passed away:

Ed Whitlock (1931 - 2017), world record-setting senior marathoner, and the Honourable Betty Kennedy (1926 - 2017), a long-time national broadcaster and former Canadian Senator.

The next Walk of Fame induction ceremony will occur when nominations warrant such community recognition.

<b>Table of Contents</b>	
<b>2017 Milton Walk of Fame, MHS Anniversary Calendar</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>2017 Milton Walk of Fame, Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>MHS Membership, Online Donations, 2017 Garage Sale</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Milton and Area Churches, 2017 MHS Executive</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>O.A.B.A. at Waldie Shop, Carriage Room Rental</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Cemetery Walk, UEL Dinner, In Memoriam</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Neil Ford Remembered</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Heritage Corner</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Mystery Of Private Baguley, Milton Memories Roundtable</b>	<b>Pages 9-11</b>
<b>Moments in History</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
<b>Milton: 160 Years of Heritage, Willow Grove Honey</b>	<b>Pages 13-14</b>
<b>Where's Merton?</b>	<b>Pages 15-16</b>
<b>Calendar of Events Membership Application</b>	<b>Pages 17-18</b>

*Contributing Editor: Barbara Fitzsimons*



## **There is still time to renew your MHS Membership!**

**Annual Individual Fee is \$25**

**Annual Family Fee is \$40**

**Annual Corporate Fee is \$100 (10 or fewer employees)**

**Annual Corporate Fee is \$200 (11 or more employees)**

### **Membership fees can be remitted:**

**In person** every Wednesday and Saturday morning,  
from 9:30am to 1:00pm, at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

**By mail** to MHS, 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

**By PayPal online** at [www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca)

## **Now Make Online Donations and Payments to MHS**

The MHS is pleased to now offer an online donations and payments option on our website [www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca) !

It's an efficient way to make a donation to the MHS and, as a registered charity, the MHS is able to offer tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more.

To make a donation or payment of any amount, please click on the **PAY DONATION BUTTON** shown on each page of the site in the **HEADER** or **FOOTER** and follow the directions.

MHS uses all financial contributions to fulfill the goals and objectives of the organization. **No** funds are allocated to pay the volunteers, who donate their time and energy tirelessly to fulfill the MHS's obligations to preserve Milton's heritage!

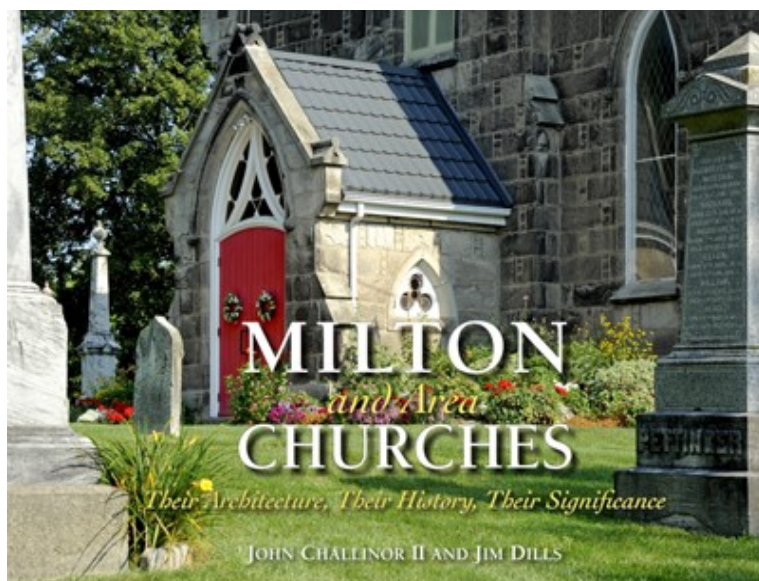
## **MHS GARAGE SALE SUCCESSFUL!**

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, the MHS held its **Annual Garage Sale** at our headquarters at **The Waldie Blacksmith Shop, 16 James Street, Milton**. The beautiful weather made for a good turn-out and the sale was a **great success!**

Thank you to all of our donors for their generous contributions and thank you to the MHS Garage Sale committee, without whom the garage sale would not be possible every year. All proceeds will go toward the maintenance of our historic building. Items, which were not sold, were donated to local charities.



## New MHS Book On Sale!



*The books sell for \$40 each.  
To purchase your copy of this limited edition,  
visit [www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca),  
email [info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca)  
or call (905) 875-4156.*

Four years in preparation, the book features the research and text by John Challinor II and Jim Dills, matched with the professional photography of Peter K. Burian, Bob McDonald, Mike Schram, Mike Streeter and Michael Todd. All work has been contributed on a volunteer basis. *Milton and Area Churches* will be similar in format to the earlier *Milton Streets*. *Milton and Area Churches* was written in part to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Dominion of Canada, the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Corporation of the Town of Milton and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Milton Historical Society.

### MHS 2017 Executive:

Mandy Sedgwick  
Karin Tomosky Chambers  
Sue Paul  
Gloria Brown  
Marsha Waldie  
Pam McLean  
Richard Brown  
Sue Platt  
Barbara Fitzsimons  
Sandy McInnes  
Bruce Carlin  
Mirella Marshall  
Brenda Bousfield  
Nancy Cuttle

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Publications  
House Plaquing  
Events  
Marketing and Public Relations  
Membership  
Journal Editor  
Guest Speakers and Social Convener  
Blacksmith Classes and Building Maintenance  
Heritage Milton  
Archives  
Town/Region Liaison

*To contact MHS executive members,  
email [info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca) or call (905) 875-4156.*

## O.A.B.A. Members Gather At Waldie Blacksmith Shop



Over fifty members of the Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association (OABA) met for their annual meeting at the Waldie Blacksmith shop on Saturday, February 18th.

The annual meeting at the shop is the most well attended OABA meeting of the year. Members come together to watch demonstrations, renew old acquaintances, make plans for the coming year, as well as participate in a silent auction for blacksmith tools and items.

The MHS prepared a chili lunch for the members as a fund-raising activity. Thanks go to the following cooks, each of whom volunteered to make pots of chili for the day:

Marsha and Gayle Waldie, Gloria Brown, Karin Tomosky-Chambers, Mirella Marshall, Mandy Sedgwick, Jan Mowbray and Bruce Carlin.

Thanks go to Pamela McLean and Larry Chambers for helping with sales of 50/50 tickets and with the lunch line.

Thanks also to Rebecca and Kim Hunter for allowing the use of their parking lot for that day.

***For blacksmithing information:  
visit [www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca).***

***You may also email  
[info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca)  
or call (905) 875-4156.***

### **Rent The MHS Carriage Room**

**The Carriage Room is available to be rented. It is suitable for small board and executive meetings, workshops and lecture-type meetings. The room comfortably accommodates 25 people, seated.**

***For rates, bookings and more information, please contact MHS at  
[info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca) or call (905) 875-4156.***

## **Ancestors Day Evergreen Cemetery Walk**

**Join the Milton Historical Society  
on Sunday, June 11, 2017, 1:00pm - 3:00pm,  
for a walk in Milton Evergreen Cemetery  
and learn about Milton area ancestors.**

***Rain date is Sunday, June 25, 2017, 1:00pm - 3:00pm.  
Self-guided maps will be provided at no charge.***

**Those, who wish to represent their own ancestors,  
may set up displays at the cemetery for the walk.  
For more information, contact the MHS  
at (905) 875-4156 or (905) 876-2651.**



## **UEL Association Dinner For Canada's 150th**

**The United Empire Loyalists' Association, Hamilton Branch, wishes  
to invite you to a dinner in celebration of Canada's 150th birthday!**

**The dinner will take place on Monday, June 19, 2017, at 6:00 pm at the  
Michelangelo Banquet Centre, 1555 Upper Ottawa Street, Hamilton.**

**The guest speaker will be Danielle Manning from Archives Ontario.**

**Tickets are \$50 per person and everyone is welcome!  
Email [glohoward@rogers.com](mailto:glohoward@rogers.com) by May 19th to buy your tickets.**

## **In Memoriam**

**It is with sad hearts that we note the passing of three of our MHS members.  
Heaven will be richer for their presence and those of us left behind will miss them.**



**Ed Whitlock, the husband of Brenda Whitlock,  
passed away on March 13, 2017. He was famous  
for his record-breaking accomplishments as a  
world-class long-distance runner.**

**Lillie (May) Johnson, who was, for many years,  
one of the Society's most enthusiastic and helpful  
volunteers, passed away on January 6, 2017.**



**Neil Ford, who passed away on February 11, 2017, is eulogized on the next page by his  
friend and fellow MHS member, Sandy McInnes.**

## Neil Ford Remembered

by Sandy McInnes

It is sometimes said that communities are like quilts, comprised of many rich and colourful parts that come together to make a beautiful tapestry. Neil Ford was indeed a part of the unique fabric representing a part of Milton's vibrant past.

I came to know Neil through my association with the Milton Historical Society and regard him as somewhat of a kindred spirit. On my daily walking route downtown, I would often encounter Neil and his protective Lab, Maggie, sitting on the front porch of his beautiful King Street heritage home. Sometimes he would also be catching a catnap in the front seat of his SUV and I would tap on the window to check in and make sure that he was okay.

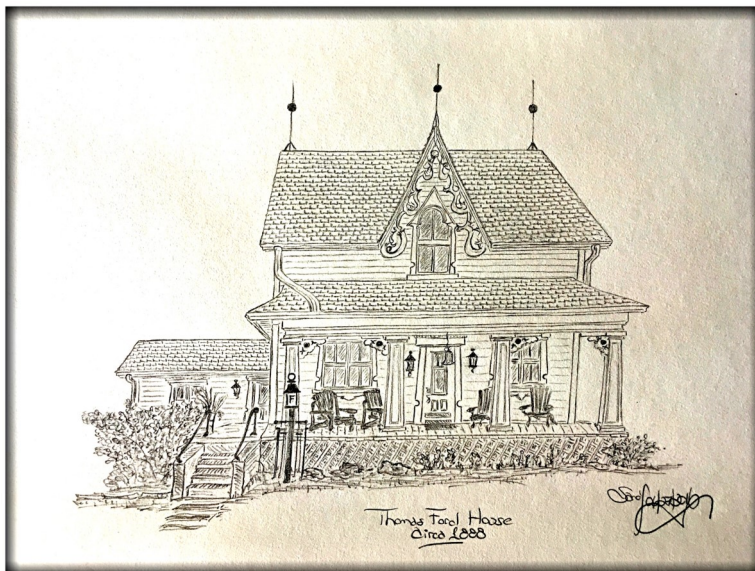
A few minutes would often become forty-five or so, as a quick greeting of hello would happily turn into a discussion on current events or the history of his home or his passion to protect Milton's heritage district from encroaching development.

Neil was a wealth of knowledge and was proud of his past, his family and his love



and commitment to the town he called home. He was born in Milton in 1937 and was, in fact, the longest living resident on King Street.

Though, in the fabric of time, our friendship was but a blip, I came to admire Neil for his love and knowledge of history, antiques and tractors and steam engines. Often, as we spoke, I tried to picture the younger person inside, as I so often do with older folks.



Neil passed away at home on February 11th, 2017, in his 80th year and, as I reflected on his passing, I felt compelled to attempt a rendering of him as a younger man (*above*). I've paired it with an illustration of his home, which I did for him earlier this year (*left*). I certainly hope it pays Neil proper homage, for I indeed feel honoured to have known someone who, like his home, was so much a part of Milton's heritage.

## **The Heritage Corner: An Update on Heritage Happenings in Milton with Nancy Cuttle**

### **Town of Milton Downtown Study**

Council approved the final Downtown Study, as presented with the following objectives:

1. Civic presence as an anchor in the Downtown.
2. Build on the existing heritage.
3. Create a vibrant public realm; a destination for the entire community.
4. Have a pedestrian-friendly, interactive community.
5. Place-making for the entire community.

There will be a public workshop on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, at the Milton Room, Town Hall. Council will be presented with the proposed zoning bylaw designations and Local Official Plan policy changes affecting the Milton Downtown at the Monday, April 24, 2017, Council meeting.

The proposed changes can be read on the town website:

<http://www.milton.ca/en/build/DowntownStudy.asp> .

### **Halton's Built Heritage Online: An Interactive Guide to the Region's Historic Structure**

Halton Heritage Services and the Milton Historical Society are working together to give the public internet access to information on some of our most treasured buildings.

The proposal is in the early stages, but the MHS will be the “early adopter” for this project. That means that we will share our archival information with staff at HHS, who will manage the input, presentation and updating. The information will be primarily architectural, but provides opportunities to include the stories behind the buildings.

### **The Revitalization of Remembrance Hall**

Amazing things are happening at Milton's Branch 136 of the Royal Canadian Legion. In a cooperative project with Legion members, FASM members and Halton Region Museum Services, the Legion's archives are being restored, displayed and will be open to the public.

Halton Heritage Services are contributing their services in cataloguing, cleaning and photographing items and planning and assembling displays. Their work includes building display walls and preparing printed display materials, banners and posters.

The completion date for this project is November, 2017, with the first phase completed in time to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. On Sunday, April 2nd, 2017, there was a parade down Main Street from the Legion to the Cenotaph, followed by a service and re-dedication of the Cenotaph Memorial and the Grand Opening of the Legion's third floor Remembrance Hall.

These projects are shining examples of what we can achieve, when members of the community and levels of government come together to celebrate our heritage.

*Nancy Cuttle is the MHS Liaison with the Town of Milton  
and with Halton Region Museum Services.*

## The Mystery Of Private Baguley – CA40 And The Canadian Scottish by Richard Laughton

*The following article is one in a series of articles, that will appear in the MHS Journal on a quarterly basis. These stories relate to the Milton Soldiers, who served in the Great War of 1914-1921 (First World War). These articles are hyperlinked, so further details can be researched from the [On-Line MHS Journal](#).*

On April 9, 2017, it will be 100 years since the historic assault by the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) on the Vimy Ridge, near Arras France. This attack by the CEF has been attributed to Canada's "Birth of a Nation", as it catapulted Canada into a class of battle-hardened countries that saw men, women and children all working as a team in support of the boys at war. At the time, the assault was also significant, as it was the first time that all four (4) Divisions of the Canadian Corps fought side-by-side in one event at the same time. The CEF served as a Corp of the British Army and the taking of Vimy Ridge was a parallel assault historically referred to as the *First Battle of the Scarpe*. My grandfather, George Van Wyck Laughton M.C., served as a Canadian seconded to the British 3<sup>rd</sup> Army as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 26<sup>th</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers. He led his platoon and survived the war on the right flank of the Canadian Corps on April 9, 1917. His service inspired my research into Canadians in the Great War.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission ([CWGC](#)) reports that 3,279 Canadian men paid the ultimate sacrifice during the four (4) days that are directly attributed to the assault on Vimy Ridge, from the commencement of the action at 5:30 am on a snowy Easter Monday, until the final capture of The Pimple by the Canadian 4<sup>th</sup> Division on April 12, 1917. A total of 13,684 Commonwealth Soldiers were lost in all actions during this same 4-day period in the Great War of 1914-1921. There are a staggering 1,010 Canadian men, who were lost in this period and who have no known grave and are, thus, enshrined on the Vimy Memorial.

Four (4) Milton Soldiers were killed in action in that assault on Vimy Ridge during this period:

Private Frederick Baguley [#718192](#), 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Private Albert Eden [#210301](#), 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion

Private William Graham [#142530](#), 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion

Private William Tremblett [#405451](#), 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion

Privates Baguley and Tremblett have no known grave and are, thus, named on the Vimy Memorial. We know that Baguley was buried in CA40, so there is a chance that we may be able to find him in the next few years. Private Tremblett has no burial record, as anything after SIMMS was lost in the London bombings of WWII. Private Eden is buried in a mass grave in the Lichfield Crater, one of the only two crater burial sites at Vimy. Private Graham is buried at the Nine Elms Military Cemetery, one of the major cemeteries for the action at Vimy Ridge. We may find that Private Baguley is also buried in Nine Elms, as we have strong evidence that the men from CA40 were buried there, but the records were lost.

We know that Private Baguley was killed later in the day on April 9, 1917, as he was in the vicinity of Farbus Woods, well past the jump-off locations near Neuville St.Vaast and the intermediary positions near Thelus. He was a Private in the 16<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division. Private Albert Eden was serving with the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division. They were on the north (left) flank of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, north of Thelus, also heading towards Farbus. We do not know the location or time that Private Eden was lost, but we can speculate it was early in the action, as he is buried in a mass grave at the Lichfield Crater, near where the battle started, at Neuville St.Vaast. Private William Graham, also of the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion, is the only other of the four Milton men to have a known grave. He was buried in the Nine Elms Military Cemetery, south of Thelus, after he was exhumed from a battlefield grave just south of Thelus. From this, we know that he fell mid-day on April 9, 1917. As noted previously, we have no details on Private Tremblett, other than that he also served with the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

*(continued on next page)*

## The Mystery Of Private Baguley – CA40 And The Canadian Scottish *(continued)*

During the period from December 23, 2014, to March 7, 2017, I have been searching for the graves of Canadian men, plus a few other Commonwealth soldiers and airmen, who were reported to have no known grave and were, thus, named on one of the Memorials for the Unknown (*Vimy Memorial, Menin Gate, Arras Flying Services Memorial, Halifax Memorial*). More than 100 cases have been examined to date, of which 77 have a good chance of being located. To date, [58 Canadian cases](#) and [5 other Commonwealth cases](#) have been submitted to the CWGC for a change in commemoration – the process of changing the headstone of an unknown soldier to that of an identified soldier. Extensive research is completed on each case, matching the location of the battalion, the details of the loss of the soldier and the clues provided by the exhumation reports, war diaries and possible candidates for the dead. Private Baguley may perhaps be one of those that are to be found, but his case has not advanced to that level as of this date. Thousands of hours have been spent searching for these men and we will find them!

The fate of Private Baguley came to the forefront of our research in March, 2015, after the video by noted Military Historian Norm Christie ([battlefields.ca](http://battlefields.ca)) appeared on public television. The show, known then as *The Missing*, told the story of 44 men, who were known to have been buried during the action at Vimy Ridge in a battlefield grave site identified as **CA40** (C = Canadian, A = 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division, 40 = burial site). The CWGC reported that the CA40 cemetery was 274 metres west of the main road by the light railway track, near Thelus, France. It was further reported that the men in this battlefield cemetery were later concentrated into the Nine Elms Military Cemetery, which is a short distance to the south. It is here that Private William Graham of Milton is also buried. Norm Christie proposed that the 44 men (*really 40 men, as 4 were found*) had not been exhumed and were still buried in a field, which is the site of a battlefield crater, southeast of Neuville St. Vaast. In the video, he tells us that this must be, as the men were not found in the Nine Elms Military Cemetery.

Initially this was a believable story and I undertook to assist by initiating a fund-raising campaign in Milton to support the \$100,000 Christie objective to find the 40 missing men. A short time later, the Norm Christie hypothesis began to fall apart terribly and a year later, on March 1, 2016, our research group reported to the CWGC that the location of CA40 was not where it was proposed in the video, but precisely where the CWGC reported that it was located. Over two (2) years of research have now gone into the investigation of the location of the supposedly lost men of CA40 and it now appears that the most logical (obvious) case was that the men were exhumed and concentrated into Nine Elms Military Cemetery, exactly as stated in the historical CWGC reports. The Christie case was misleading, for most certainly they were not named on headstones in the Nine Elms Military Cemetery, as they had not been identified. There are 97 unknown Canadian soldiers in the Nine Elms Military Cemetery. Of these 30 are identified by their unit affiliations, including 4 men of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion. That leaves 67 men of no known unit, of which 40 could easily have been the missing men of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Scottish. That was never mentioned in the video, in the fundraising campaign, or in any rebuttal of these findings in the past two years.

If Private Fred Baguley was buried in CA40, as proposed (which we have no reason to doubt), it is most likely that he lies buried in the Nine Elms Military Cemetery as one of the unknown Canadian Soldiers. If not, we have identified where the CA40 site was most likely located. It is not in a crater, as shown in the TV show, but in a burial site south of Thelus, some distance to the east. There is no doubt that the precise location of CA40 is a mystery, but we will find it in the near future and perhaps even find a means to confirm that Milton's Fred Baguley is buried in Nine Elms or still lies in the real CA40 battlefield grave site.

*(continued on next page)*

## The Mystery Of Private Baguley – CA40 And The Canadian Scottish *(continued)*

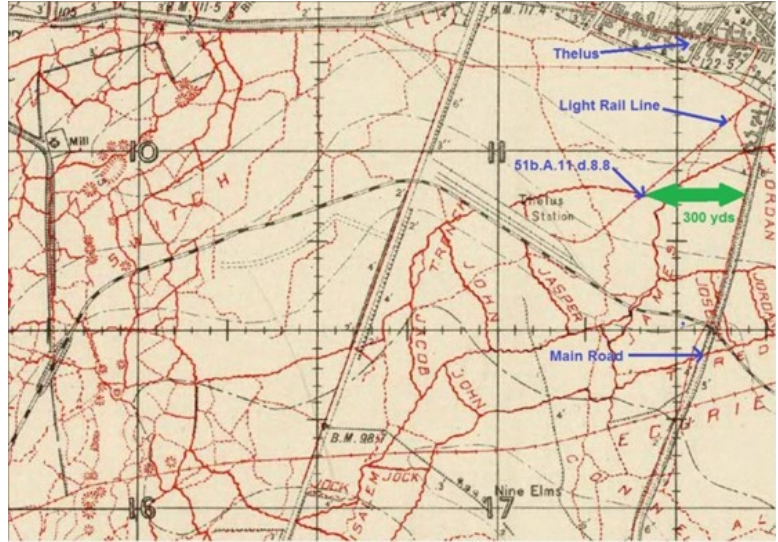
Our report to the CWGC stated the following regarding the location of CA40:

*On the basis of the work undertaken to date, we are able to clearly identify a site, where the CWGC defines the location as 274 metres (300 yards) west of the main road by the light railway track. Using the Google Earth overlay process, the team was able to accurately identify the location at 51b.A.11.d.8.8 (GPS Coordinates 50.3513, 2.7958 or 50°21'4.68"N 2°47'44.88"E). The area is shown in the attached image as a partially filled-in trench at the junction of the light rail line and the 274-metre mark from the road:*

Google Earth Overlay:



1917 Trench Map Extract:



### *Join the conversation at Milton Historical Society's* **Milton Memories Roundtable**

**All are welcome** to bring stories, books, documents and photographs or simply to listen, as others report on aspects of Milton's fascinating history.

There will be a different subject at each **Saturday** session, **10:15am - 11:15am**, in the cozy **Carriage Room** of the MHS's **Waldie Blacksmith Shop, 16 James Street, Milton**.

#### **Upcoming dates and subjects:**

**Saturday, April 22, 2017** - *Milton streets and how they got their names.*

**Saturday, May 6, 2017** - *Hangings and how they used to be.*

**Saturday, May 20, 2017** - *Favourite Main Street merchant memories.*

There is no registration, no charge and the coffee is free.

Be surprised at how interesting local history can be!

*For more information, visit [www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca),  
email [info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca) or call (905) 875-4156.*

## Dr. Gardner Takes Charge Of Toronto General Hospital *Moments in History with Jim Dills*

**F**ebruary 13, 1857, Village of Milton, Canada West - Dr. Charles Gardner was honoured this week as he plans to leave Milton, after six years, to take charge of the General Hospital in Toronto.

A member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, he came to Canada in 1848 and practiced in this community. He was born in England in 1823. His wife, the former Mary Leticia McCartney, is a local girl having been raised on a farm in Trafalgar.

Dr. Gardner told the crowd gathered at the banquet that it was difficult to part from his friends so suddenly, but that the sudden death of his friend, Dr. Clarke, the first superintendent of Toronto General Hospital, and his own appointment to succeed the doctor, required him to act quickly. He noted the position is "full of interest to me and quite congenial to my taste".

"Six years of experience of your kindly attentions, hospitality and confidence had engaged my lasting gratitude, but this unexpected and tangible proof of your esteem completely overpowers me." Dr. Clarke told his friends.

"I feel truly happy to find that my professional services have been acceptable to you and, though now severed, it gives me pleasure to know that the vacancy is efficiently filled by medical gentlemen, who still remain."

Following the address by John White, the Reverend Francis Tremayne and Robert Todd, on behalf of the people of Milton, presented Dr. Gardner with a silver tea service and ink stand.

Dr. Gardner has been an active member of our community during his brief time here. He purchased the property at the corner of Main and Charles Streets from Henry Huffman in 1852 and registered Milton's first plan of subdivision, although lots had been sold earlier on some plan not formally registered. The Gardner Survey included a section of Main and Mary Streets. He also applied his name to a section of road designating it Charles Street.

At a meeting in Hampton's Inn in January, 1855, he was elected the first president of the Milton Mechanics' Institute and presided over its first formative year.

Dr. Gardner also assisted Dr. Clarke at the Toronto hospital. When he leaves to take up the full-time position there, his nephew, Dr. W. B. Hampton, also of Milton, will assist him. Dr. Hampton is the son of Edward Hampton, proprietor of Hampton Hotel in this community.

Sequel: Dr. Gardner continued at Toronto General Hospital only seven years. He died at just forty years of age in the latter part of 1863. His nephew, Dr. Hampton, succeeded him but had an even shorter life: He died at twenty-nine. His obituary attributed his death to overwork.

Mrs. Gardner returned to the Milton area family farm, where she died in 1888. Her grave and that of Dr. Gardner are in the Bowes Church Cemetery on Highway 25.

*Research assistance by Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke. (Copyright Jim Dills)*

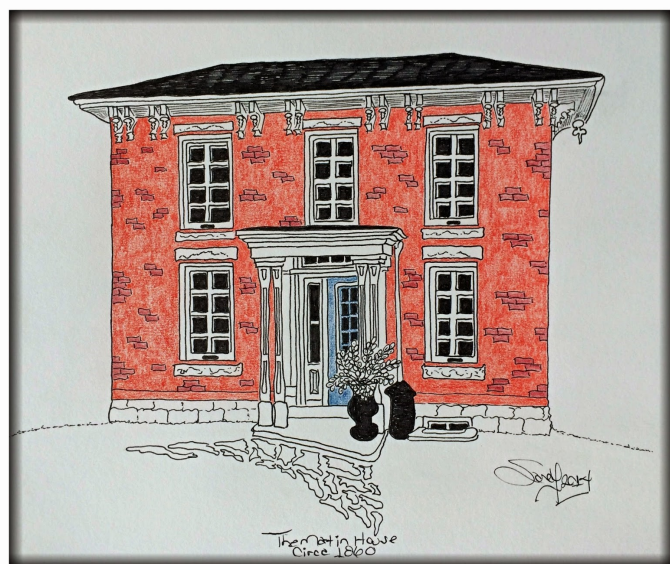
## Milton: 160 Years of Heritage

*submitted by Marsha Waldie on behalf of MHS research team*

**T**he Town of Milton was incorporated in 1857 and this year we will be celebrating our 160th anniversary.

The history of Milton dates back to 1821, when Jasper Martin first built his grist mill (and later a saw mill) on the site, where Martindale Retirement Home sits today. It is believed that Martin Mills or Milton, as we know it, was named for the English poet, John Milton, who was a favourite of the Martin Family.

Jasper and his wife, Sarah, arrived in Canada with two children in 1818 and moved to our area in 1821, when Jasper received 100 acres of Crown land, which were situated on the north side of what is now Main Street. The Martins would eventually have three other children and Jasper later added a further 100 acres to his land holdings. Jasper and Sarah died in 1833 and 1830 respectively. Their eldest son, John, took over the mill operations and became head of the family at just eighteen years of age.



*The Martin Home, 1860.*

*Illustration by artist, Sandy McInnis.*

Our first Mayor was George Brown, who operated a store on Main Street and who came to Milton in the 1830s. The south side of Main Street was owned by Hugh Foster and by Henry Huffman, whose family were Loyalists. Both men purchased their land in 1832.

Main Street was originally established as a property line between the Martin and Huffman lands and the road allowance, which ran through the village of Milton, would subsequently become the public highway, which is Main Street today.

Other settlers had come to the area as early as 1818, one being the Harrison family, who farmed on the west side of Bronte Street. Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison was our first school teacher. The log school house was built on the banks of the Sixteen Mile Creek, close by what is now called the old Pioneer Cemetery on Bronte Street. Shortly after arriving in the area, Elizabeth lost her husband, Thomas, but, through her strength and determination, she carried on and raised her large family of six children, who ranged in age from three months to seventeen years. Mrs. Harrison was settled in the township for six months already before she saw another white woman there for the first time.

Another farming family, the Willmotts, also arrived in Canada in 1818. They owned 200 acres of land, which was located just to the south of town, below what we now know as Derry Road and between Highway 25 and Bronte Street. Mrs. Rachael Willmott was also left alone to raise eight children, when her husband, John, died in 1836.

The first church, "old Kirk Presbyterian", was built in 1846 and was situated on Main Street, between where Zak's Pharmacy and the Credit Union are located today.

## Milton: 160 Years of Heritage (*continued*)

Our first newspaper was known as the Halton Journal and was first published in 1854. When Halton and Wentworth Counties became separated in 1853, the County of Halton had to build their own county building and Milton was declared the County Town. This county building was constructed in 1855 and is today's Town Hall, which is part of Victoria Square Park.

The land for the construction was donated to the County by Hugh Foster and, as a result, the old Registry Office, which is on the same property, is known today as Hugh Foster Hall. Halton County was named for William Halton, who was private secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Francis Gore.

In 1855, our original Town Hall was built on Main Street on land given to the Town by Joseph Martin, one of Jasper's sons. The original Town Hall is the old stone building, which is situated beside what is Carriage Square today.

Let us begin this anniversary year by remembering and celebrating those who walked, worked, worshiped and lived in this area and, in so doing, left us a rich heritage, which we should not forget or take for granted. Take time to know your community and to become involved in our Society.



*Halton County Courthouse in the 1860s.*

### Local Honey from Willow Grove Heritage Farm

Karin Tomosky Chambers, our MHS Secretary and resident apiarist, is generously donating to the MHS 17% of all sales by the MHS. Jars are \$12 and \$24.

Karin's bees work hard throughout the warmer months to make this honey, which is pure 100% Ontario honey. ***To purchase this local honey or for more information on Willow Grove Heritage Farm, contact the MHS at [info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca) or call (905) 875-4156.***



## Where's Merton? or A Busy Little Section of Dundas Street!

### By David Hobden

Most individuals, with a passing interest in Halton history, would be able to tell you the location of the long gone village of Merton. Merton (Trafalgar Township) stretched east and north from the intersection of the Middle Road (now QEW) and Bronte Road from the early 1880s until its gradual decline following the building of the Queen Elizabeth Way in the 1930s.

So why would we be looking for Merton? We look because, according to *Library & Archives Canada* (LAC), which are Canada's records for post offices and postmasters, another earlier Merton existed in Nelson Township. Unfortunately, although the LAC records indicate that the Merton (Nelson Township) post office existed from February 6, 1852, until August 3, 1859, it doesn't provide a location for the village.

A chance reading of Larry Cotton's very informative and interesting volume, *Whiskey & Wickedness / Halton County 1815-1875*, revealed an undescribed map detail showing Merton to be located on Dundas Street, west of St. Anne and Palermo, at the intersection of Dundas Street and Appleby Line. While the map detail was not noted, a general reference to the *Tremaine Map of 1858* was included. A check of the *Tremaine Map* copy, which hangs in the Milton Historical Society building (*right*), confirmed the location.

Not only did LAC provide the opening and closing dates, but also the name of the postmasters, the initial one being Henry Harrison, who the *Tremaine Map* not only reveals as owning the farm on the north east corner of

the intersection, but also locates his post office (PO) at the north west corner of the intersection and indicates him as the post master. According



to the *Report of the Postmaster General for 1852*, Harrison's income at the Merton post office was £7-2s per year, small enough that it is safe to assume his post office was located either in a store or in his dwelling.

Also of interest to note is the relative economic importance of the Dundas strip through Halton as late as 1852. The PMG report lists the combined income and, hence, volume of mail for the Dundas Street (Halton) offices, Trafalgar, Palermo, Merton and Nelson, as almost double the volume for Oakville.

The LAC records also note that, from April 1, 1865, until December 31, 1867, a post office named Lothian opened in the same location as the then closed Merton Office.



*Tremaine Map Detail Courtesy of University of Toronto Map Library.*

## Where's Merton? (continued)

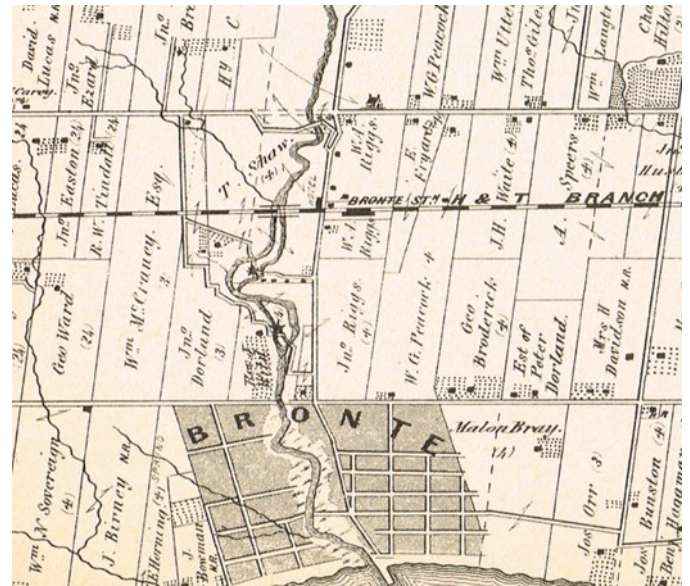
Further review of a separate LAC postal record notes the opening of the Tansley post office on August 1, 1884, and *Manchee's Ontario Post Office Atlas* locates it on the rail line, slightly north of Dundas Street between the now defunct villages of Merton and St. Anne. After 1859, the name, Merton, is no longer attached to this area.

This "Busy Little Section of Dundas Street", between Twelve Mile Creek and Appleby Line, has been known by the following names:

1. Nelson Mills - Although the author has seen no other reference to Nelson Mills, the Tremaine Map clearly notes the grist/saw mill area as such. It is not clear how early this name might have been applicable, but the author expects the mill was grinding flour as early as 1814.
2. St. Anne - A common early name for the community along Dundas Street, west of the creek. Site of the county's first post office by December, 1821. Of interest to note, St. Anne was reportedly larger than Hamilton in 1820.
3. Nelson - Although the post office was in St. Anne, it was always known as the Nelson post office, being named after the township rather than after the village, so it seems inevitable that the area would have at least partially received this moniker, as Hannasville gradually adopted the name Nelson at a later date.
4. Merton - Name of post office at Appleby and Dundas Street, 1852-59.
5. Lothian - New name of the Merton office, as reopened in 1865-67.
6. Tansley - Post office granted to Joseph Tansley in 1884, closed 1947.
7. Burlington!

As we have seen, the closing of the Merton (Nelson Township) post office in 1859 was not the last use of the name for a village in Halton County.

While the 1877 *Walker and Miles Halton Atlas* doesn't show any development at the Merton (Trafalgar Township) location, settlement must have occurred rapidly thereafter, as Merton Trafalgar was granted a post office in 1883. Although the post office closed in 1918, Merton remained a community until after the middle of the 20th century despite the construction of the Queen Elizabeth Way in the 1930s.



The *Walker and Miles Atlas Township Map of 1877* shows a school house on Middle Road, west of Bronte Road. No other commercial building or development is evident in 1877.

In summary, does one view the village of Merton as having *moved*? By no means. Merton Nelson, although short-lived, survived as one of a number of names for an area for several generations. A full twenty-five years after its demise, another local village utilized the name again. Why the same name? *Bartholomew's Gazetteer of the British Isles* notes no fewer than four parishes or villages of the name Merton. Perhaps an influential and relocated individual liked the name. I doubt that we will ever know for sure.

## MHS Calendar of Events

**Monthly Meetings** commence at 7:30pm, with doors opening at 7:00pm and refreshments following. Meetings take place in the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room, 16 James Street, Milton. For more info, visit [www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca), contact the MHS at [info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca) or call (905) 875-4156.

**Sunday, April 2, 2017 - Official Re-opening of the Milton Royal Canadian Legion Archive, 21 Charles St, Milton, ON, L9T 2G5.**

**Saturday, April 8, 2017 - MHS ANNUAL GARAGE SALE. 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.** *All proceeds go toward the maintenance of our historic building.*

**Thursday, April 20, 2017 - Monthly Meeting, Speakers, John and Laura Hughes:** *History of Springridge Farms.*

**Saturday, April 22, 2017 - Milton Memories Roundtable. 10:15am to 11:15am at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room.** *Milton streets and how they got their names.*

**Saturday, May 6, 2017 - Milton Memories Roundtable. 10:15am to 11:15am at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room.** *Hangings and how they used to be.*

**Saturday, May 6, 2017 - Blacksmithing, Basic Beginner Level One. 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.**

**Saturday, May 13, 2017 - Blacksmithing, Basic Beginner Level One. 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.**

**Thursday, May 18, 2017 - Monthly Meeting, Speaker, Nancy Cuttle: Milton Heritage Plan.**

**Saturday, May 20, 2017 - Milton Memories Roundtable. 10:15am to 11:15am at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room.** *Favourite Main Street merchant memories.*

**Saturday, May 27, 2017 - Blacksmithing, Basic Beginner Level One. 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.**

**Sunday, June 11, 2017 - Ancestors Day Evergreen Cemetery Walk. 1:00pm - 3:00pm.** *Rain date is Sunday, June 25, 2017, 1:00pm - 3:00pm.*

**Thursday, June 15, 2017 - June Members' Potluck. Arrive at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm.** *At Craiglea, the John Stewart farm.*

**Monday, June 19, 2017 - UEL Association Hamilton Branch, Canada 150th Anniversary Dinner. 6pm at Michelangelo Banquet Centre, 1555 Upper Ottawa St, Hamilton.**



# The Milton Historical Society

Preserving Milton's History For Future Generations

[www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca)

Email: [info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca) Telephone: 905-875-4156

## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

*(Check all categories that apply)*

☐ New Member

☐ Family \$40

☐ Youth (Free)

☐ Renewal

☐ Single \$25

☐ Corporate (10 or fewer employees) \$100

☐ Corporate (11 or more employees) \$200

☐ Yes, I wish to receive the Journal newsletter and other e-communications and I understand that I can unsubscribe at any time.

## **VOLUNTEER**

Join our volunteer team. Please circle your interest(s):

EXECUTIVE - WEBMASTER - FACILITIES CO-ORDINATOR - RESEARCH

ARCHIVES - NEWSLETTER - PUBLIC OUTREACH - MEMBERSHIP

## **DONATION**

I wish to make a separate donation to the society in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_.

A Tax Receipt will be issued for all donations totaling \$25.00 or more.  
The Milton Historical Society is a registered charity #110041358RR0001

**Please make cheques payable to: Milton Historical Society**

**Please mail completed form and remittance to:**

**Milton Historical Society**

**16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4**

***Thank You!***