

L.M. Montgomery and World War I
The Dedication in L.M. Montgomery's
Rainbow Valley 1919

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To THE MEMORY OF
GOLDWIN LAPP, ROBERT BROOKES AND MORLEY SHIER



WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE
THAT THE HAPPY VALLEYS OF THEIR HOME LAND
MIGHT BE KEPT SACRED FROM
THE RAVAGE OF THE INVADER

Goldwin Lapp

When Lucy Maud Montgomery and her new husband, the Reverend Ewan Macdonald, returned to Canada from their honeymoon in Scotland in late September 1911, they settled in the rural community of Leaskdale, Ontario where Ewan was the minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Ewan lived in Leaskdale for almost two years before Montgomery joined him there.

On a very wet October 3, 1911, the congregation held a reception dinner for the newlyweds at the church. After a short program and welcoming address by Hugh Mustard, a member of the congregation, Maud stood at the front of the sanctuary dressed in her white satin wedding gown; Ewan introduced her to the people in the receiving line until late evening.

With Ewan, the Presbyterians gained two good things -- a mature minister who would stay for several years and, as an added and significant bonus, the minister's wife, whose energy and talents touched every aspect of the community life, including the church's new Young People's Guild.

Two of the neighbors that Maud would likely have met that night were George and Effie Lapp. Their 100-acre farm was just south and west of the church. George was a past president of the Scott Agricultural Society and a leader in the community – he also served on the local council for three years and was the Reeve [mayor] of Scott Township in 1909. He sang in the church choir and donated a portable communion set that the church minister could use on home visits.

Hugh Mustard was the first person Maud met in Leaskdale. He welcomed the Macdonalds at the Uxbridge station and brought them to Leaskdale after their honeymoon. "He was not only our right hand man in the church but our warm personal friend."
Selected Journals [SJ] of L.M. Montgomery, vol. 2:221.

Effie Loretta Wright was from the nearby town of Uxbridge, the daughter of Allen Wright and Polly Plank (whose families originated from England and the Netherlands). Effie was a dressmaker and, when she met Maud at the church, most of her children were nearly grown up. Her oldest, Ford, was nineteen; her second son, Goldie, was in his last year of school in Uxbridge; Dorothy was thirteen, and little Harvey was three. Effie had help around the home from Mary (Mamie) Sollitt who married Ford a few months after the Macdonalds moved into the Manse.

The Lapp's younger daughter, Dorothy, was in the Guild and grew up hearing L.M. Montgomery's recitations and enjoying her hospitality and guidance. George and Effie would have been one of the couples that helped Ewan and Maud ease their way into the life of the community. George would have been a good resource for Ewan in becoming acquainted with his congregation and Effie and Maud found common ground in the trauma of war.

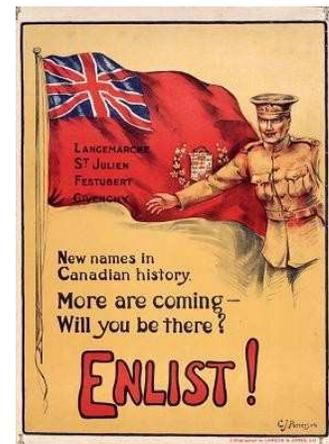


Leaskdale Church in Hodgkins painting of LMM

Civilization stands aghast at the horror that is coming upon it

A year before Maud Montgomery arrived in Leaskdale, she conversed with Lord Earl Grey, the Governor General of Canada (1904 -1911) who was visiting Prince Edward Island. He predicted that war between England and Germany would come within a few years. She did not think it would happen but he was emphatic, "No. This is coming." When it did, in August 1914, Canadians began immediate preparations to join British soldiers in the trenches in France.

One of the first Scott County boys to sign up was Goldwin (Goldie) Dimma Lapp. He no longer lived in the Uxbridge and Leaskdale area in 1914; he was in Toronto working and studying to become a pharmacist. When Goldie was born on March 28, 1894, George and Effie gave him the Scottish surname of Dimma from his grandmother who had died when George Lapp was very young. Goldwin signed his attestation papers on January 4, 1915, and joined one of the first authorized fighting units, the 20th (Central Ontario) Canadian Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force, which had been mobilized in Toronto.



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Artist: Patterson, C.J.
Lawson and Jones Limited

After months of training, Goldwin left for England on the *S.S. Megantic* (coincidentally, Maud and Ewan had sailed on the *Megantic* on their honeymoon trip). The troops left Toronto on a direct line-train to Montreal on May 14. People waved at the train --decorated with red, white, and blue bunting -- as it passed and the troops boarded the ship as soon as they arrived. They sailed to Quebec City where they saw the forts and guns trained on the river. A small boat took their mail at Pointe-au-Pere (Father Point) on the St. Lawrence River, before they entered the open waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence -- that was their last sight of Canada. They traveled in complete darkness at night to avoid submarines and during the day had drills with lifeboats. Goldwin's first letter home (eight pages), on May 23, 1915, has been preserved and recorded the journey overseas.



Well Mother I must give you an idea of how we spend the time on board and then I will have to quit. Reveille at six in the morning, ... After breakfast consisting of porridge, bacon, eggs, B & B, tea and fish and marmelade we lay around till about ten or anytime they take the notion to sound the alarm then we all go out with our life belts and go to our respective boats. Then we are dismissed for the morning. Dinner consists of soup, meat, potatoes, tea sea biscuits, fish, peas or beans and rice pudding, an apple and an orange. This sounds pretty good but you ought to see the waiters (or I should say the stewards) they are positively filthy, as one Irishman we have says "they are dirty when they're washed." After dinner we sit around the deck until three then we have an hour physical drill and then we are off until the next day. Supper consists of B & B, pickles, cheese, preserves and sausage or pressed meat. At night we sit around on deck and smoke and talk or go down in the dining room for music and games. There are six nice boys (at least I should say five nice boys and myself) in our berth and when we all go in there, there isn't much room left. The sergeants travel 2nd the officers 1st class.

*L. L. Megawick
May 28th 1915
Dear Mother
Well here we are near Old
England at last. Am feeling fine
and fit and am & have quite a
bit to tell you & will begin at the
beginning.
We were up at 4.30 on the morning
of May 14th had breakfast and got
our lunches in our haversacks.*

...
Now Mother don't worry too much about me for I guess I will be alright for a long while yet. Be sure to tell anyone from whom you think I should like to hear to write. Be sure and make Dorothy write for I would like to hear from her and when you write be sure to write lots. Make Dad write too because I sure will get lonesome so far from home. I can hardly realize it yet. Well Mother Dear I must close now but will write as soon as we get settled in England.



Give my love to Mamie and Ford and the kids. Tell Harvey [age 7] I wish he was here to keep me company. When you write to Auntie give her my love as I may not write for awhile. And much love as you want for Dorothy, Dad and just as much for your own self.
Love to all Your son Goldwin

In July 1915, the 20th Battalion was stationed in Sandling, England and being trained in: "physical drills, bayonet fighting, fire discipline and control, musketry, attack & defence, map reading, march discipline, trench warfare, outposts, patrolling woods, village fighting, picquets [picket: watch], entrenching, advance and rear guard" [June 1, 1915. *War Diaries of the First World War*, Library and Archives of Canada].

1915

Since August 1914, Montgomery had deeply absorbed the emotions of shock, grief, and anguish. She gave birth to a stillborn son within weeks of the beginning of the war and the intense agony of that loss was overlaid with the grim war news each day. She finished writing *Anne of the Island* that autumn and on her fortieth birthday in November, she visited the tiny grave of her "Little Hugh." The companionship of her dearest friend, Frede Campbell, over the holidays gave

Montgomery new life -- "I have emptied and rinsed my soul and taken fresh courage."
Montgomery was pregnant again by the time Goldwin Lapp was boarding the *Megantic* in May 1915.

Throughout this period, Montgomery was consumed with the sacrifice and suffering of mothers and children: she cried herself to sleep over stories of crimes against children in Belgium, she "shrank in shame" at the relief that her own little boy was too young to be "sacrificed," she was nauseated by the fatalities of babies on the *Lusitania*. Her third son was born in October 1915. She was deeply connected to the war news as a mother and she could empathize completely with women like Effie Lapp whose son was already on the battlefield. By November of 1915, the women of the community had organized their own Red Cross Society; Montgomery was its president and Effie was the treasurer [photo: LMM on left, Lapp on right].



In France

The 20th Battalion was assigned to the 4th Brigade, 2nd Division, Canadian Corps and sent to the front at Ypres, France. They marched for several days to St. Quentin Cabaret, Belgium, on September 28, 1915, where they had their first casualties from sniper fire and took their places in badly constructed trenches filled with mud and water. Conditions were so terrible that a German soldier yelled, "We will give you the whole bloody trench for some Bully Beef" [tinned corned beef]. On October 2, they returned to the rear for their turn in the "Divisional Baths." On October 13, they were positioned in Dickebusch: "The enemy used incendiary shells and some of our men were badly burned. Our men maintained a very effective rapid fire, taking careful aim over the parapet. The jamming of rifles was frequent. Our men behaved very well under the enemy's bombardment with shells and grenades" [September 29 and October 13, 1915. *War Diaries of the First World War*, Library and Archives of Canada].

The Battalion War Diaries record that the winter of 1915-16 had a routine of "18 days on the front and 6 days in the rear, all the while battling lice, trench foot, and disease." Their assignment was to patrol "No Man's Land" every night and to repair wire and trenches every day during continuous shelling.

In these days of heavy mud and heavier express one would do well to reflect upon the stupendous task of Pte. Woodcock, the Battalion Postmaster-General. The fact that we received our letters and parcels right into the front line, when the trenches were full of water and mud, was due entirely to conscientious and untiring devotion to duty of our Regimental Postman. [*The Twentieth Gazette: A Journal Devoted To The Interests Of The 20th Battalion C.E.F.* (Northern And Central Ontario Regt.), Christmas Number, Dec. 1, 1915.]

1916

By January 1916 Maud and the Red Cross Society were knitting, sewing, and packing as many supplies as they could for the soldiers. The Society met at the Macdonalds' home and she wrote to Ephraim Weber: "We packed a huge bale of supplies. It is all part of our regular life now – of

the strange, strained painful life Canada is living under the shadow of war.” She suffered from the position she held in the community as the minister’s wife that constrained her from sharing the intensity of her feelings about the war. Likewise, the other members of the congregation probably suppressed their own thoughts in her presence. As a result, she felt that many of her neighbors were not as affected by the war as she was. The only safe outlet she had was infrequent conversations with Frede, because Ewan would not talk about the war. In June 1916 she wrote in her journal, “This war is slowly killing me.”

On March 9, 1916, the Battalion diarist noted, “... have been killing rats in lieu of Germans. The former frequently annoy us more than the latter.”

In the spring of 1916, the Commander of the British Second Army decided that it was essential for an enemy salient near the village of St. Eloi to be eliminated. Following attacks and counter-attacks, the 4th Brigade tried to retake the craters that the 6th Brigade was forced to fall back from. The 20th Battalion managed to retake one crater and held it



through a month of concentrated shelling. In one month, the 4th Brigade suffered 1373 casualties. On 15 September 1916 the Second Division joined the attack at the Somme, supported by tanks for the first time. The infantry captured three lines of trenches and reached their final objectives in just 40 minutes. The tanks, however, had broken down. Meanwhile, the 20th was trying to consolidate its position despite taking machine gun fire from both flanks. Early October brought heavy rain and a second attack at the Somme. Under heavy shelling, the 20th captured two lines of trenches in close combat, mainly with grenades and bayonets. In both these actions, the 20th captured all of their objectives and held them until relieved, but at a cost of 111 killed and 319 wounded in only three weeks.

[<http://www.firstworldwar.com/features/cef.htm>, The Regimental Council of The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment)]

In October 1916, Effie Lapp spent the afternoon with Maud making boxes for Tag Day. They must have discussed the war and the letters that Goldwin would have written. It would be quite unusual if his mother shared nothing about his service with a sympathetic friend like Mrs. Macdonald. Linda Hutton explains in more detail what Maud and Effie were doing:

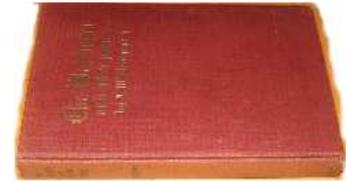
If Maud is making boxes for a Red Cross Tag Day, she may be attaching twill tape to either cardboard or wood boxes or perhaps she is gluing together cardboard boxes. She may have been stenciling "Red Cross" across the front of the box. There may have been a tin for the coins, but the tin had to fit inside the box, beside the tags. Presumably, the tags had a red cross on them and were paper. This activity would fund war work, such as the buying of wool for knitters or cotton for the sewing of shirts for soldiers, or cotton to be cut in strips and sewn together to make bandage rolls.



Linda Hutton, Bala Museum, with a bandage roller.

Montgomery also gave lectures at Red Cross events, recitations (*In Flanders Fields*) at recruitment meetings, and continued to host the Scott Township Red Cross Society. In November and December 1916 she seemed to be working to the point of exhaustion and only Frede's Christmas visit buoyed her spirits: "I went to the Red Cross and sewed and planned and talked like an automaton ... after I read the papers I drove over to the Sixth to a meeting for the Red Cross, sewed all the afternoon, and have come home tired and blue ... drove to Zephyr because I had to recite at a Red Cross concert there ... in the evening went to a Red Cross lecture in the church – an illustrated lantern affair. Soldiers made recruiting speeches. Capt Cockburn made speech of gloomy war picture."

Montgomery's book of poetry, called *The Watchman and Other Poems*, was published at the end of 1916. She wrote the dedication: "To the Memory of the Gallant Canadian Soldiers Who Have Laid Down Their Lives for Their Country and Their Empire."



Meanwhile, Goldwin was getting special training for operations in the area of Lens, France where the Battalion was holding lines, patrolling and raiding. He was a Lance-Corporal, second in command in a platoon, in charge of a section of about 15 men. His nieces remembered, "He could have been used as a spy as he looked like a German and spoke some German!" Because of his training as a druggist, he may have had duties as a medic.

Starting on January 5, 1917, the soldiers began constructing "dummy" German trenches in Bully Grenay, France, to practice for a large attack. The drills continued for eleven days in cold, wet, gray weather. On the morning of January 17, the weather turned windy and snowy as the troops moved into Calonne, France at 4:30 am, waiting for the code word, "Lloyd George," to start the attack at 7:45 am.

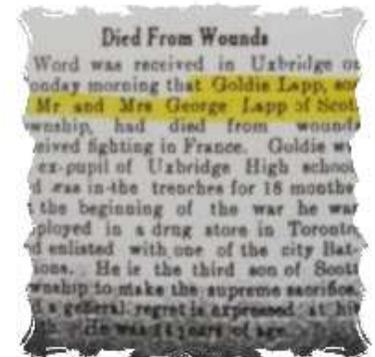
The largest of a number of raids mounted in January 1917 was one by the 20th and 21st Battalions (4th Brigade) on the 17th. These units were represented by some 860 specially trained all ranks, assisted by sappers [combat engineers] of the 4th Field Company. The object was to inflict casualties, take prisoners and booty, and destroy enemy dug-outs three miles east of Lens in the area of the Lens-Béthune railway. ... Corps and divisional artillery provided adequate fire support in which Canadian machine-gun units joined, while special Royal Engineer units laid down smoke. In one hour the attacking force, operating on an 850-yard front, blew up more than 40 dug-outs, exploded three ammunition dumps, captured two machine-guns and two trench mortars and destroyed several others, taking 100 prisoners of the 11th Reserve Division. Canadian casualties numbered about 40 killed and 135 wounded. [Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War: Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919. G. W. L. Nicholson, p.233.]



Goldwin was one of the wounded. It was snowing throughout the next day as the Battalion moved to Bruay. Goldwin was probably taken to the 6th Casualty Clearing Station; he died of his wounds on January 18, 1917, two months before his 23rd birthday, and was buried nearby at the

Barlin Communal Cemetery, France (after the war it was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens). News traveled quickly during the war years as technologies like the telegraph and telephone outraced letters and dispatches. George's father received a cable about his son's death on January 22nd. Goldwin was the third boy in the township to be killed. Maud and Ewan went to see the family that day:

This morning word was 'phoned over that Goldwin Lapp had been killed at the front. The news upset me for the day. I could not help crying all the time. The Lapps are especial friends of ours and Goldwin was the first Scott boy to go to the front. He has been in the trenches for a year and four months and went through the Somme offensive without a scratch. Poor boy! We drove over to Lapps' this afternoon. It was bitterly cold and the roads were dreadful. And it was a heart-breaking errand. But is not life a heart-break these days? It seems to me that the very soul of the universe must ache with anguish.



Montgomery did not write in her journal during the next week. On Sunday evening, February 18, a service was held at the church for Goldwin.



A hard, hard week. ... I felt very draggy and listless the whole day but went to the church in the afternoon and superintended the decorations for the memorial service for Goldwin Lapp at night. In spite of the fearsome cold [-20F] the church was crowded. The service was sad and impressive. Oh, God grant that we do not have to have another.

In total, there were sixteen soldiers from the county who died in the First World War. When a family in Ewan's congregation lost a son, "... the Macdonalds proved their friendship by claiming each sorrow as their own" [Margaret Leask Mustard].

Maud and Effie continued with the Red Cross work. In 1918, the Society made an "autograph" quilt to raise funds -- local people paid to have their signatures sewn onto a panel of the quilt. In the summer, they set up their quilting frames under George Leask's apple tree in the dappled light. Afterwards, they would have a tea of salads, sandwiches, and cake.



Example of an autograph quilt

Eventually, however, the group fell victim to a round of "personal spite" directed toward the treasurer, Effie Lapp. Montgomery, as president and a savvy financial accountant, would surely have helped oversee and approve the use of the precious funds of the Red Cross group. She threatened the "unjust" accusers with her own resignation, which silenced them for a while. "It is disgusting to think that while our boys are fighting and dying at the front our women cannot work for them at home without quarrelling." Montgomery was assertive in her support of Effie when the Society finally disbanded [January 1919]: "... without her I know not what we could have done. She is the only woman in the place with any executive ability and she has worked like a slave cutting and planning. Not one of the women who have criticized and slandered her could, or would try to, take her place ... and those very women who have gossiped about Mrs. Lapp ... voted her the thanks of the society for the good work she had done! For the love of Allah, what is human nature made of? Is there any sincerity anywhere?"

Effie died within two years of the end of the war, on August 4, 1920. Montgomery did not mention it in her journals -- her cousin, Laura Aylsworth, was visiting at the time and Ewan was unwell. She did write two weeks later, "I have had an exceedingly strenuous fortnight of visiting and being visited, picnics, barn-raising, funerals, missionary meetings and guilds. Now I hope to settle down to quietness and peace and get in some good work on my book [*Rilla of Ingleside*]. I am at the twenty eighth chapter now and ten more will finish it." However, there was a reminder of Effie that she may have inserted in her text. One of the most poignant scenes in any of Montgomery's books told of the Blythe's Dog Monday foretelling Walter's death in France:

Rilla shivered; the sound had something boding and grievous in it. She remembered that Miss Oliver said once, when they were coming home in the darkness and heard a dog howl, "When a dog cries like that the Angel of Death is passing." Rilla listened with a curdling fear at her heart. It was Dog Monday – she felt sure of it. Whose dirge was he howling – to whose spirit was he sending that anguished greeting and farewell? [Chapter XXII "Little Dog Monday Knows", *Rilla of Ingleside*, 1920.]

At Effie's funeral, it was very likely that a three-year old family story was re-told among the Leaskdale neighbors: how one morning the Lapps' dog kept howling and howling and that Effie told her granddaughters that the howling dog was a bad omen. Of course, that was the day they received the cable about Goldwin's death. Animal premonition and loyalty stories were not unusual (e.g. Lord Carnarvon and Greyfriar's Bobby) so it is not a surprise to find Walter Blythe's dog mourning his death in Montgomery's story, but it may have been the Lapp family's experience that prompted her to include it.

One of Montgomery's other connections with the Lapps was the participation of Goldie's little sister, Dorothy, in the Young People's Guild. During the time that Montgomery was in charge of the group, Dorothy grew up from age thirteen to twenty-seven. In 1922, Dorothy presented Montgomery with a bouquet of Killarney (pink) roses when the Youth Guild paid tribute to "Canadian Authors" at their meeting. Margaret Leask Mustard summarized Montgomery's dedicated involvement with the young people of the community:

There were splendid meetings, full of interest and fun to which teenagers, as well as adults, gave good attendance ... we were taught to keep proper records of each meeting ... Socials were really fun, and besides encouraging latent talent, Mrs. Macdonald herself rarely missed reciting or reading. This is one of our fondest memories of her ... it was from a reading by Mrs. Macdonald that many of us first heard of the 'atom' ... It seemed she never ceased learning herself and delighted in sharing it with us ... There were also debates and ... 'plays' ... She delighted in the 'make-believe' and found an outlet for her own talent in grooming us. I remember wearing her wedding gown in the final scene of one play. It was interesting, at dusk, to walk down the lane and hill to a meeting and see coming from the Manse, a bobbing light. Eventually Mrs. Macdonald would materialize from the darkness with her faithful flashlight. She could not have delighted always in these duties but one could never know.



From Harrap edition of
Anne of Ingleside

Montgomery's years in Leaskdale were rich in joy and sorrow for her. It was here that she lived some of her happiest times as a wife and mother, even during the war. She had a healthy husband and an intact young, loving family, the support of her beloved companion Frede, and a community that appreciated and admired her. She would never forget her friends' sorrows at the loss of their grown children in the Great War or the wooded haunts that might have inspired the environs of *Rainbow Valley*. When the time came for her to leave Leaskdale, she wrote: "The beautiful woods behind Mr. Leask's, the leaf-hung corner of the side-road, the lovely hill field beyond with the elms on its crest. I love these things and grieve to leave them." But more than that, it was the home that held her memories she grieved the most:

I could hardly keep the tears back. That dark silent home seemed to be entreating me, "Oh, come to me. I am lonely. Though you have stripped and forsaken me I am still your home. I have things of yours here you can never find elsewhere – your children's baby days, the ghosts of two little toddling lads – of Frede – come back – come back." And it was anguish to turn my back on it and go. May 11, 1926, *Unpublished Journals*



More About the Lapps

The Lapp family had been part of the Leaskdale community since well before the first wooden church was built in 1862. However, most of the Lapps of the earlier generations were affiliated with the Wesleyan Methodist church. George's grandparents, Henry and Elizabeth Lapp (originally from Germany), came to Ontario and Scott Township from Pennsylvania around 1800. Their son, Philip, farmed their 100 acres (on the patchwork square of the county labeled Lot 12 in Concession 5) and married Agnes Dimma who emigrated from Scotland in 1843.

In 1864, Philip and Agnes named their eighth child, George Washington Lapp. Agnes died from "falling sickness" when George was only six years old. However, Philip had eight other children and three daughters between the ages of 17 and 23 to care for the younger ones and two sons who were 14 and 19 to help with the farm work. Phillip was also Captain of the County Volunteer Militia in 1873 for which he could earn extra pay.

Patriotic Concert

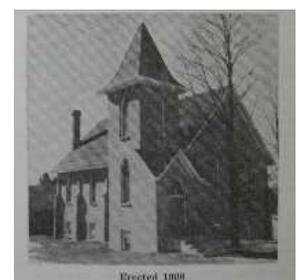
TO BE HELD IN THE
Presbyterian Church, Leaskdale
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19th
 At 8 O'clock

PROGRAMME

Patriotic Solo	- - -	Mrs. C. Tiffin
Reading	- - -	Mrs. Petch, Sandford
Patriotic Solo	- - -	Miss Dorothy Lapp
Reading	- - -	Mrs. E. Macdonald
Duet	- - -	Miss Mary Shier and Miss Estella Cook

SPEAKERS:
 Major J. A. Patton, Rev. Capt. Cummer, both of the 182nd., Rev. Mr. Fraser of Uxbridge and others.

Rev. E. Macdonald Chairman
 Signed, Scott Patriotic Committee



After George grew up and married Effie Wright in 1889, Phillip lived with them on the Lapp farm – soon all three joined the Presbyterians. In 1882, Leaskdale Presbyterians enjoyed the services of a successful pastor and started to acquire members from a branch of the Methodist Church, resulting from a union of the “Bible Christians and the Wesleyans.” According to the 1962 history of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, “Many of the farmers declined to enter the union and became members of the Presbyterian Church of Leaskdale. They proved to be loyal and faithful workers.” By 1905, plans were made to construct a new brick church for the growing congregation. It was finished in 1906 and the last payments for it were made in 1908.

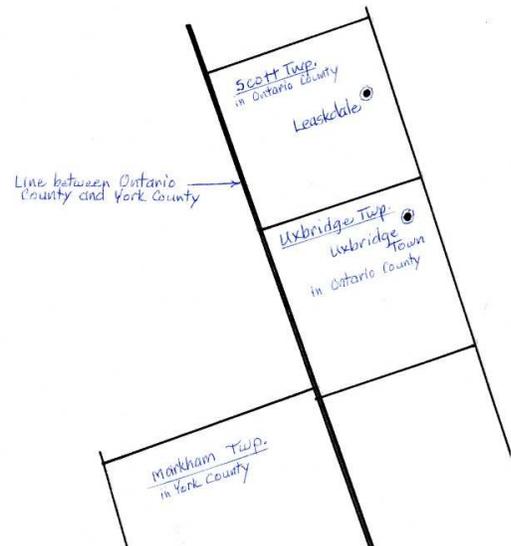
Goldwin’s brother, Ford Orley Lapp, was a farmer and he and Mamie had six children: Lloyd Allen, Harris Clayton, Eileen, Lillian, Ruby, and Lyla Maxine. Dorothy Jean Lapp worked as a stenographer and married farmer William Hillary Kennedy in October 1922. Goldie’s little brother, Harvey Grant Lapp, married Pearl Hollinger. Some of the Lapp descendents still live in Scott and Markham Townships.



Ford Lapp B 26-05-1892
D 09-08-1963
Goldwin Lapp B 28-03-1894
D 18-01-1917
in action

Leaskdale 1895

24	P. Montgomery	J. Stevenson	J. Stevenson	E. Oldham	J. Tiffin	M. Quigley	
23	R.H. Graham	F. Law	J. Gray	F. Thomason	J. Quigley	L. Collins	
22	Mrs. Mooney	J. Cook	G. Leask + sons	J. Jones	Jas. Shier	John Shier	
21	Wm. resident	J. Kennedy	Mrs. Leask	G. Leask + sons	J. Colwell		
20	G. Blanchard	Mrs. Leask	Mrs. Leask	G. Leask + sons	LEASKDALE Wm. Octoby	J. Barry	
19	John Thompson	Thomas Thompson	F. J. Shier		J. Blanchard		
18	Vanderburgh D. Walker	J. Vanderburgh	J. M. Shier	J. Blanchard	W. Hassack		
17	J. Acton, trustee		J. Vanderburgh		A. Hassack		
16	W. Blanchard	F. Murphy	P. Murphy	Wm. Kennedy	W. T. Lyons	E. Shier	
15	Walter Barton		G. Blanchard		D. Kennedy	A. Mustard	
14	John Card	John Barton	John Madill		Gieba of Presbyterian Church		
13	Geo. Vernon		J. Sinclair	Wm. Kennedy	John Madill		
12	i. Blanchard	Phillip Lapp	D. Ross	C. Ross	Robt. Kennedy		
11	J. Hackner	Mrs. Galloway	A. Mustard	J. Gibson	C. Whitney	Mrs. Bond	
10	H. Mustard	T. Gibson	D. Lapp	W. Ferguson	John Weldon	E. Acton	
9	W. Usher	A. Mustard	P. Lapp	Hy. Madill	John Weldon		
			Wm. Ferguson		Geo. Abrahams		
			H. Madill				



Credits for Goldwin Lapp

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Macdonald College archives http://cac.mcgill.ca/campus/buildings/Macdonald_Campus.html.

Eloi craters <http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/guerre/photo-e.aspx?PageId=2.B.1.c&photo=3.E.6.c&f=%2fcwm%2fexhibitions%2fguerre%2fst-eloi-e.aspx>.

Historical Sketch: 100th Anniversary St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Leaskdale 1862 – 1962.

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The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Volume II: 1910-1921. Edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1987.

The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Volume III: 1921-1929. Edited by Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1992.

The Montgomery painting in Leaskdale is by artist Arnold Hodgkins, commissioned by the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society and unveiled at the Uxbridge Music Hall by Montgomery's son Dr. Stuart Macdonald on her 100th birthday in 1974. Photograph provided by Jason Nolan.



Robert Brooks 116th Battalion, C.E.F.

L.M. Montgomery moved to Ontario at the end of September 1911 after her marriage to Reverend Ewan Macdonald. Ewan was the minister for the Presbyterian congregations at Leaskdale and Zephyr, about seven miles apart. The Macdonalds lived in the Leaskdale Manse, a "white" brick house that was close to the road, beside a dozen houses in a country setting. The couple spent a month getting the house ready to occupy and they moved in to it in late October.



Montgomery accompanied her husband on what she considered “long wearisome” buggy rides over “dreadful” roads to the Zephyr church every week. She disliked the responsibilities of tending to a second congregation in those early years. The old wooden building with its worn frosted windows compared unfavorably with the new brick Leaskdale church. She resented the required dull visits and invitations to tea so that the “Zephyrites” were “getting their share of my attention.” Later, she became good friends with a few families there like Rob and Lily Shier (Lily was Maud’s household help from 1912 to 1916).

Zephyr was also the hometown of respected attorney and politician Samuel Simpson Sharpe who practiced law in nearby Uxbridge and, beginning in 1908, was a member of the House of Commons. Sharpe was a year older than L.M. Montgomery and his wife became a friend of hers through their membership in the Uxbridge Hypatia Club, a women’s discussion group about books and authors.

Some of the members of the Zephyr congregation that became linked to the Macdonalds were the children of Edward Brooks, Jr. and Catherine Forrest Brooks (no resemblance to the character in *Anne of Windy Poplars*, Katherine Brooke). Catherine had been a widow for several years when Ewan became her minister. Her grown sons Albert and James had left home and she was in the care of her grown daughters Janet and Mary. Her youngest son, Robert, had been on a homestead in Saskatoon for six years but came home to work on his family farm. Catherine died in 1912 and the farm was left in the hands of Robert and Janet, who kept house for him. The Brooks farm was a mile southwest of Zephyr with a hundred acres of corn, orchards, and meadows [on Lot 24, Concession 1].

On August 4, 1914 war began between Britain and Germany; Canada declared war the next day and recruiting centers were organized in Ontario County. Major Samuel Sharpe began enrolling soldiers for his 34th Ontario Regiment, a militia unit with headquarters in Uxbridge. In October 1914 he sent 200 men across the Atlantic to the Salisbury Plain of Britain with Canada’s 1st Contingent. The small local militias were soon replaced by a newly created force of 260 infantry battalions of 1000 volunteer men who became known as the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On September 16, 1914, Ewan performed the marriage of 33 year-old Janet Brooks to 37 year-old Jacob (Jake) J. Meyers, Jr. in Zephyr. Janet’s brother, Bob, signed as a witness on the marriage license. Jake was a farmer whose parents, Elizabeth Segrist (or Secrist) and Jacob Meyers, came from Zurich, Switzerland and belonged to the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church. Jake’s cousin, John Rudy Meyers, had two daughters who worked in the Macdonald house as maids during the war years. Edith Meyers was hired in January 1916. Her older sister, Lily Ann, followed her and worked for Maud from 1917 until 1923.

Maud Montgomery received a letter from her pen pal Ephraim Weber in July of 1915. In it he dismissed the war as a “commercial” one not worthy of sacrifice. Montgomery seethed with anger over those words because she, like everyone else she knew, viewed the conflict as a just and righteous war, a “death grapple” between freedom and tyranny, worthy of the ultimate sacrifice.

By September, the county had supplied enough soldiers, 943, to form a battalion which was assigned the number 116. Bob Brooks decided early in the summer to enlist and he began his training under the new command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sam Sharpe as soon as the fall harvests were finished. He had his physical exam in December and signed his attestation papers (a contract of enlistment) on January 12, 1916. On Christmas Eve, Maud and Ewan gave a dinner

for the enlistees from the Leaskdale church: “as I looked at the splendid young fellows my heart ached,” she wrote to Weber.

In January 1916, there were recruiting meetings every night and Maud was hosting Red Cross groups at the manse to sew and knit huge bales of supplies for the military hospitals. It was a “strange, strained painful” life of war. She grieved over the faces of the poor mothers. “The church is full of stifled sobs as [Ewan] prays for the boys at the front and in training.” The new recruits of the 116th spent the winter training in Uxbridge.



In March, Private Bob Brooks took a leave to go home and sell his machinery, horses, and livestock that his brother-in-law, Jake Meyers, cared for while he was in Uxbridge. The sale was the largest in the area and earned him nearly \$8000. Janet was not happy about all that he was giving up. He said, “It isn’t as though I had a wife and family dependent upon me here. They do need me over there and I’ve got to go.” His hired man, Joe Newell, decided to go with him too. Bob rented the homestead, probably to Janet and Jake who eventually made “the rolling fields of autumn furrows, acres of ripened corn, fruit –laden orchards and meadows, and sleek cattle” their own.

By the spring of 1916, there were 1145 men in the 116th Battalion -- they left Uxbridge in June for basic training in Niagara after one last march through several villages and towns in the county, passing under arches by the manse and church in Leaskdale. There were speeches and gifts along the way of oranges, cigarettes, and a large tent. On July 23, 1916 they set sail from Halifax on the *HMT* (His Majesty's Transport) *Olympic*. The 116th was stationed at Witley Camp in England for training until they were sent to France on the 11th of February 1917 and then to Vimy Ridge on the 11th of March. The battalion fought with the 3rd Division of the Canadian Corps and the 9th Infantry Brigade.



The attack on the German stronghold at Vimy had been planned for months using a mock replica of the area for practice. Three miles of tunnels were dug to secretly move troops. A few days before the battle started, the soldiers heard that the United States had finally declared war on Germany. All four divisions of the Canadian Corps took part in the offensive from April 9 to the 12th under cold and wet weather with heavy snowfall. During the assault, they followed a moving “creeping” barrage of artillery, a tactic invented by Canadian General Currie. The 116th moved supplies to the front line, repaired trenches, worked on the roads and then relieved another battalion at the front as troops were rotated.



It was generally understood that we were to take the place of the 60th Battalion. We were fresh and eager to do credit to the name of our unit and our Commanding Officer (Col. Sharpe), whose untiring energies had succeeded in gaining a place for us in France; ... For two years [the Germans] had looked down into our trenches from the top of that accursed ridge, which had been lost by the French in the early days of the war. He could see the country behind our lines for a distance of about 5 miles... To drive him from the

top of the ridge we must advance a distance of nearly three miles, uphill, over deep mud and shell holes, and through barbed wire entanglements ... The successful capture of Vimy Ridge ended another chapter in the annals of the Canadian Corps which was soon to be regarded as second to none on the Western front. It also witnessed the birth of a new battalion, whose fame up to the present, had not extended beyond the borders of the County of Ontario, but whose ideals, if lived up to, would make it second to none in the gallant Corps to which it now belonged. *The 116th Battalion in France*

Vimy Ridge was one of Germany's strongest defensive points; the defeat there was demoralizing for the Germans and provided a strong position for the British advance in 1918. Montgomery noted the price of these successes in her journal on April 17, 1917: "There has been a fortnight of 'good' war news – with huge casualty lists. The British and the French are slowly advancing on the western front, purchasing a little village or so a day with the lives for which mothers have agonized."



King George V Behind the Lines in France
Watching Bombardment of German Lines.

In May, June, and July the 116th provided working parties for roadwork, trench reinforcement, and moving supplies. They were reviewed by King George V, had training exercises, made night raids into No Man's Land, and were assigned to take a series of German trenches and hold them. As part of a preliminary operation in Lens, the 116th launched an attack at the Méricourt trench.

The assault was delivered at 1:00 a.m. on 23 July by the 116th Battalion (of the 9th Infantry Brigade). In spite of a gas attack launched by the enemy just as our troops were forming up, the operation ... was completely successful. The 116th quickly took the trench that formed its first objective, killing many Germans. In solid hand-to-hand fighting the attacking companies gained the railway embankment and blew up a number of dug-outs and a tunnel. After thirty-five minutes the main body returned to its original position as planned, leaving outposts who subsequently came under a heavy counter-attack and had to be withdrawn. The Canadian battalion, whose own casualties numbered 74, brought back 53 prisoners. *Canadian Expeditionary Force*, pp. 285-6.

After four months of fighting, troops were usually sent 12 miles behind the lines for rest and reorganization. In mid August the 3rd Division was pulled off the lines, only to be sent back to engage in the Battle of Hill Seventy at the French city of Lens on August 20th. They relieved the 27th Battalion on the front line for five days then rotated back to dig trenches and move mortar ammunition to the front. The Canadian troops captured the high ground in hand-to-hand combat and held against several counterattacks of mustard gas and flamethrowers.

In mid September the 116th was moved to a position 1500 yards from the enemy line in the Méricourt trench south of Lens. They were relieved on the 18th of September and left by train for rest and much needed bathing. After seven months of active service, eighteen officers had been killed and two hundred and seventy soldiers were killed, wounded, and missing. The Corps picked up replacement ranks at times but at the end of September, the 116th Battalion had 30 officers and 669 "other ranks" (O.R.).



On the 14th of October 1917 the battalion received orders to take a train to Ypres, in West Flanders Belgium, to prepare an attack on the German concrete “pill boxes” on the Bellevue Ridge and help take the area around the town of Passchendaele. The deep muddy quagmire surrounding the ridge was the result of the “rotting debris of three years of war.” At 5:40 a.m. on the morning of October 26th, the 9th Brigade, with the 116th in support, advanced over the swampy marshland on wooden duckboards toward the Bellevue Spur in a wet mist. Lt. Col. Sharpe did not expect to survive Passchendaele so he wrote to his wife: “We have very little protection there and I may not pull through. If it should be my fate to be among those who fall, I wish to say I have no regrets to offer. I have done my duty as I saw it ... I die without any fears as to the ultimate destiny of all that is immortal within me.” It was a horrible bloody assault, but by the morning of the 27th their brigade had achieved its goal and a German garrison was destroyed. After five months the allied forces finally recaptured the Passchendaele ridge (Third Battle of Ypres) on November 6, at a cost of hundreds of thousands of lives and the total destruction of the woods, farm houses, and town – only to lose it all again four months later.

Private Robert Brooks received a field promotion to Sergeant at some time during the last part of 1917. He also took a brief furlough in England and received news that his sister Janet had a new baby daughter during the summer of 1917 named Olive. He wrote: “I don’t by any means long to go back to the bloody battlefield. I’m glad the crops are good over in Canada, and I want you to take good care of that little girl. I’m willing to go back and do my duty to the end, then when I come back she’ll be great company for me.”



On December 1st the troops voted in the Canadian elections – 90% of the soldiers in active duty voted for conscription. For one year, the boys from Zephyr, Leaskdale, and Uxbridge, who Sam Sharpe had recruited and trained so well, did what was required. They moved in endless marches from one battle to another, carried bombs, set communication wire under fire, cut barbed wire, and built trenches and roadways. They lived in constant cold and wet, were gassed, and fought the enemy in acres of knee-deep mud. At Passchendaele, the shelling tore up the wet ground where soldiers had been buried after the fighting in 1914 and 1915. The recently killed soldiers in 1917 were never moved from where they fell in the shell holes, or in the sucking mud.

Colonel Sharpe could not find relief from the exhaustion and the images of waste and carnage. By February 5th, 1918, he was removed from duty with the battalion and sent to a hospital in England suffering from a nervous breakdown. Sharpe had managed to keep the 116th Battalion together despite attempts to break it up in England and France. It was common for battalions to be split up to provide reinforcements to other battalions -- but the 116th remained as a complete fighting unit and earned battle honors wherever it served. Sharpe was rightly loved and respected by his men for his leadership and for his bravery in scouting out enemy machine gun positions and marking the openings in barbed wire entanglements in No Man’s Land. The command of the 116th was taken over by Major G. R. Pearkes, another decorated officer.



Through the winter of 1918, the Canadian Corps held a seven-mile line in the Lens-Merciourt sector fortifying defenses. On May 25th the battalion received word that Col. Sharpe had died when he jumped from the window of a hospital in Montreal. On June 9th the battalion attended a

memorial service for their commanding officer in the small village of Lingham in northern France.

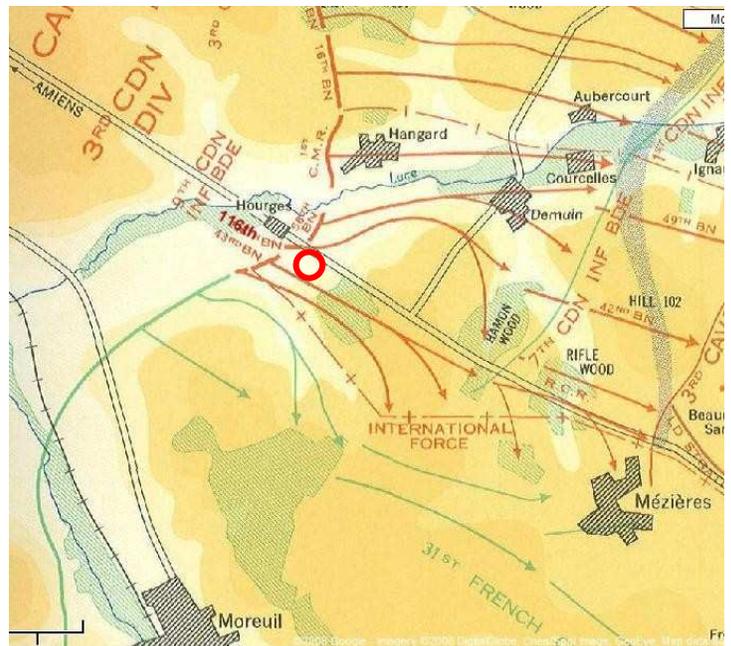
Later that month, on June 27th, German forces bombed two Canadian hospitals and a medical ship in route to England from Halifax named the *Llandover Castle*, killing 235, including 14 Canadian nurses. Throughout the summer, the battalion had training exercises for a surprise attack planned on August 8, which became known as the Battle for Amiens (Third Battle of the Somme). “Llandover Castle” (or “LC”) was the code word for the attack plan and the signal for readiness. Amiens became known as the beginning of The Hundred Days Offensive -- Australian, British and Canadian forces, with heavy tank and air support, moved seven miles on the first day and decisively broke the German line, starting the drive which ended the German resistance within a hundred days.

The senior officers of the Corps did not know their destination until July 30th. The infantries moved silently in the dark and under strict rules of silence. Starting on August 1st the 116th marched in the rain on moonless, dark, narrow, muddy roads to the Boves Woods. They left Boves at 11 p.m. on August 6 and arrived at 6 a.m. in their final position at Gentelles Wood and their assembly position near Hourges, France on August 7.

On the night of August 7th, the battalion walked single file through zigzag lanes that had been cut in the cornfields. Each soldier had two water bottles, two-day rations and 170 rounds of ammunition in addition to his usual equipment. “To drown the curses of the weary troops as well as the approach of the tanks it had been arranged with great forethought, for a flight of heavy bombing planes to operate during the night in this area. It was a bright moonlight night, and the movement forward proceeded uninterrupted; ...” One gunshot at 4:20 a.m. signaled start of the attack in a heavy dark mist. The whole Luce Valley was enshrouded in a fog, which made it difficult for the soldiers to keep their pace and find their direction. The 116th was placed in the center of the brigade and succeeded in crossing the River Luce. “... it was not until 7:30 [a.m.], after the 116th Battalion had overcome German resistance north of the road and tanks had worked their way southward among the shattered stumps cleaning out machine-gun posts, that the wood could be reported free of the enemy. There were regimental claims of upwards of 40 machine-guns captured, and more than 250 German prisoners. By half-past seven the 9th

2. TASKS.

- (a) The 9th Cdn. Inf. Bde. and 28 tanks will advance south of the LUCE RIVER and capture the GREEN Line. Should the 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. fail to pass through, this position will be consolidated. Should the 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. pass through successfully the 9th Canadian Inf. Bde. will be ready to reform and come into Divisional Reserve. The 42nd French Division will advance at ZERO as far as the MAGDEBURG Trench. They will then halt for about 45 minutes, exact time will be notified, later.
 - (b) The 7th Cdn. Inf. Bde. and Tanks will advance south of the LUCE RIVER and pass through the 9th Cdn. Inf. Bde. at ZERO plus 4 hours, and, assisted by the tanks of the 9th Cdn. Inf. Bde., capture and HOLD the RED Line and push patrols well beyond it.
 - (c) The 8th Cdn. Inf. Bde. (less two Battalions) and 14 tanks will advance North of the river LUCE and be responsible for the capture of all objectives beyond the river LUCE and the Northern Divisional boundary. The 6th Cdn. Inf. Bde. and Tanks will also assist the 9th and 7th Cdn. Inf. Bdes. by attacking DEMAIN, COURCELLES and CHREPS WOOD, crossing from the north to the south banks of the river LUCE for this purpose wherever possible.
3. The 9th Cdn. Inf. Bde. will attack on a 3 battalion frontage the 43rd Cdn. Bn. on the right, the 116th Cdn. Bn. in the Centre, and the 58th Cdn. Bn. on the left with 52nd Cdn. Bn. in Brigade Reserve. The 9th Cdn. T.M. Batt. will be with Brigade Hdqrs. and will be kept for carrying parties. The 1st C.M.R. Battalion (8th Cdn. Inf. Bde.) will carry out the first phase of the attack and capture HANGARD VILLAGE, on our left.



Brigade had reached the Green Line. The 116th Battalion, suffering fairly heavy casualties, had captured Hamon Wood, between the Luce and the Roye road.” *Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War*, p. 399

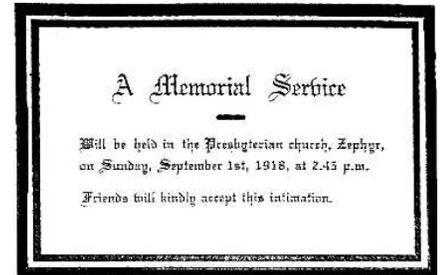
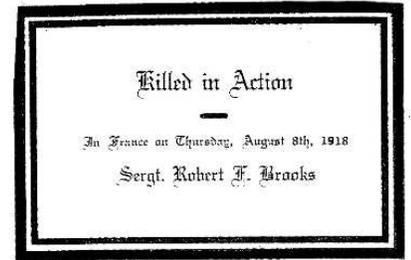
Sgt. Robert Forrest Brooks died sometime early that morning, five weeks short of his 32nd birthday. Lieutenant-Colonel George Randolph Parkes wrote: “He led his platoon to their objective and well past it, but was killed early in the morning of Aug. 8 in the third battle of the Somme while helping a wounded comrade to safety. He was a good soldier, keen, and showed marked ability in the leadership of men. His loss to his company cannot be overestimated.” The battalion casualties were two officers and 29 soldiers killed and ten officers and 148 soldiers wounded or missing. Sgt. Brooks was buried, almost where he fell, with 143 others in a cemetery that was created after the battle – Hourges Orchard Cemetery, Sommes, France.

Robert’s family heard the news of his death in late August and a memorial service was held in the Presbyterian Church in Zephyr on September 1st.

A year before Sgt. Brooks was killed, in the autumn of 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres, Montgomery began writing *Rainbow Valley*. It was the story of the children in Anne and Gilbert’s community who grew up in the last years of innocence before they would be swept into war. She finished it on December 24th, 1918 and dedicated it to Goldwin Lapp and Morley Shier of Leaskdale and Robert Brookes [sic] of Zephyr. Maud remained friends with Robert’s sister, Janet Meyers, for several years.

The Macdonalds were driving to Janet and Jake’s farm for tea after church on June 12, 1921 when they crashed into Zephyr resident Marshall Pickering. Janet and little Olive Meyers were in the car and, although no one was seriously hurt, Pickering initiated a lawsuit that persisted for years. Janet testified on the Macdonald’s behalf and kept them informed of happenings and conversations in Zephyr about the accident. In 1925 their friendship cooled when Janet appeared to leave the Presbyterian congregation and considered moving to the Union Church.

During the war, Montgomery memorized the news and recorded campaign details in her journals – for the most part, she did not record the story of her own 116th Battalion. Her war notes were placed in her next book, *Rilla of Ingleside*. In that novel, Anne’s son, Walter Blythe, is killed. The beginning of a poem written for the 116th Battalion by A.B. Lundy is reminiscent of young Walter’s premonition about war in *Rainbow Valley*:



Men of the One-sixteen

*A bugle note is calling,
Insistent, clear and sweet,
While the throbbing drum beats echo
To the tramp of soldier's feet.*

*For they heard the bugle's call,
Sounding All! All! All!
While the throbbing of the drum
Answered Come! Come! Come!*

"Some day," said Walter dreamily, looking afar into the sky, "the Pied Piper will come over the hill up there and down Rainbow Valley, piping merrily and sweetly. And I will follow him – follow him down to the shore – down to the sea – away from you all. I don't think I'll want to go – Jem will want to go – it will be such an adventure – but I won't. Only I'll *have* to – the music will call and call and call me until I *must* follow."

Rainbow Valley (1919) p. 83

Read about L.M. Montgomery, the 116th, Sam Sharpe, and the First World War at: *L.M. Montgomery and the First World War*
<http://lmm.confederationcentre.com/english/collecting/collecting-6-1.html>

Credits for Robert Brooks

Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War: Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919. Colonel G. W. L. Nicholson, C.D., Army Historical Section, Department of National Defence, Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationary, Ottawa CANADA 1962. <http://www.cefresearch.com/matrix/Nicholson/>

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http://www.archive.org/stream/116thbattalionin00alleuft/116thbattalionin00alleuft_djvu.txt

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Canada's Hundred Days: With the Canadian Corps from Amiens to Mons, Aug. 8 - Nov. 11, 1918. J. F. B. Livesay. Thomas Allen, Toronto. 1919. <http://www.archive.org/details/canada100days00liveuft>

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[http://www.ontrmuseum.ca/PDF/War%20Diary.%20116th%20Battalion%20CEF%20\(Ontario%20Regiment\).%201917-1919.pdf](http://www.ontrmuseum.ca/PDF/War%20Diary.%20116th%20Battalion%20CEF%20(Ontario%20Regiment).%201917-1919.pdf)

Hourges Orchard Cemetery <http://www.britishwargraves.co.uk/page13.htm>

Amiens battlefield map
<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=http:%2F%2Fbbs.keyhole.com%2Fubb%2Fdownload.php%3FNumber%3D708296&t=k&om=1&ie=UTF8&ll=49.811293,2.512779&spn=0.063695,0.122051&z=13>

Passchendaele bunker photo

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-467811/Hell-Earth--The-seen-colour-photographs-bloody-battle-Passchendaele.html>

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Photos of L.M. Montgomery and Scrapbook material:

L.M. Montgomery Collection, Archival & Special Collections, University of Guelph Library

Brooks family material:

Uxbridge-Scott County Museum, Allan McGillivray,

Christy Woster



Morley Shier

“A friend of mine in the Flying Corps told me that when he first went up he felt neither elated or frightened – only *desperately lonely* and *homesick* – as if he were adrift in space – like a lost star.”

L.M. Montgomery [Nov. 25 1917 letter in *After Green Gables*]



When the last of the three soldiers, Morley Shier, died overseas, Montgomery was enjoying a long visit from her Aunt Annie Campbell. In the first week of September 1918 they viewed “Hearts of the World,” a World War One film set in France and made at the request of the British government to move the United States out of neutrality. She did not hear of Shier’s death until three days before Germany and Austria asked for peace in October 1918. Then she wrote: “On

Tuesday came word of the death of Morley Shier, a fine young fellow from our church who went overseas in the flying corps.”

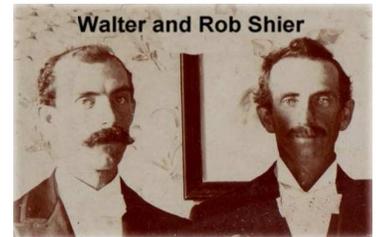
Morley Roy Shier was born December 4, 1894 to Catherine Anne Shier and James Mooney Shier of the 6th Concession, Scott Township in Leaskdale, Ontario, a few acres away from the Leaskdale Church (St. Paul’s Presbyterian). Morley was their second child – his sister, Mabel Beatrice, was three years older and his brother, Harvey James, was seven years younger. He attended Leaskdale public school and Uxbridge High School and then entered the teaching profession. His first school was at Corson’s Siding public school in Victoria County, Ontario, and then he moved to Earl Grey School in Toronto.



There were several Shier family members that were friends of Montgomery’s, including Morley’s cousin, Mary Shier McLeod. Mary often took part in community and church programs. Most readers of Montgomery’s journals will recall Morley’s uncle, Dr. Walter Columbus Shier, who was a medical doctor in Leaskdale and Uxbridge. Dr. Shier attended the Macdonald family and was the first doctor to treat Ewan’s depression.



Another uncle was Rob Shier who lived in Zephyr. His wife (the third one) was Lillis Harrison, also known as Lily Reid, Maud’s first local household helper (1912-1915). She was followed by Edith Meyers and then Edith’s older sister, Lily Ann, from 1917 until 1923. It was Lily Meyers who caused Maud so much grief with her gossip. Rob and Lily Shier were friends and sympathetic allies who kept Maud apprised of what was happening and being said in Zephyr and Leaskdale, especially by her maids, even after the Macdonalds moved away. Lily helped Montgomery find household help over the years and the Shiers remained friends with the Macdonalds through the 1930s.



Second Lieutenant Shier joined the Royal Air Force in November 1917 at about the time Montgomery began to write *Rainbow Valley*. Planes were being seen in the air from Toronto to the Georgian Bay in 1917, at Lake Simcoe and Zephyr. Morley joined the RFC in November of 1917 although he probably was in training before that.



In 1917-18 the British Royal Flying Corps, [aka RAF in spring 1918] started a training operation for aircrew in Canada establishing The Royal Flying Corps Canada. The quarters of the trainees were in public school buildings, a prison, and much of the University of Toronto. Cadets soloed after only 5-7 hours with an instructor. During Shier’s training, fatalities were reduced greatly, although there could be more than two dozen crashes each day. The airfields were littered with plane debris. If planes crash-landed, it was usually the cadets in front who were killed while the instructors in back survived. Eight thousand RFC cadets died learning how to fly.



A pilot’s early training was finished after 10 to 20 hours in the air, although by the time Shier started it increased to 80 hrs. He probably did his flying in Toronto at Armour Heights Field. After receiving his commission in April 1918, he went to England in May 1918 to learn combat and reconnaissance skills at the British advanced flying schools. He became an active RFC pilot in July 1918 at the age of 23 years.

Great Britain’s activities in the North Sea (with the Royal Fleet, submarines and planes) were designed to prevent Germany from breaking the very effective blockade of its own coastline,

prevent an invasion by Germany, and protect the civilian English North Sea fishing fleet, which was an easy target for German submarines. Germany began to allow its submarines to attack all targets in the North Sea in 1917 and, in the single month of April, it sank 430 Allied and neutral merchant ships. By mid-year it was destroying British ships with mines and torpedoes faster than they could be replaced. In response, Britain created a protected waterway with its own mines and convoys as well as airborne surveillance. Planes located and chased U-boats, which were forced to stay below the surface of the sea where they could not communicate or observe and attack ships. In this way, Britain kept control of the North Sea in the last year of the war.

Shier was part of the 256th Royal Air Force Squadron, which was formed in June 1918 at Seahouses, Northumberland, a busy fishing port not far from the Farne Islands in the North Sea and the border with Scotland. He most probably flew a Canadian-built De Havilland D.H.6 trainer, with a range of about 4 hours of flight, to patrol for German submarines. It could carry a pilot and passenger, had a maximum speed of 75 mph (121 km/h), and could carry up to 100 lb (45 kg) of bombs. One of the nicknames for the DH-6 was “the Flying Coffin.”



Reconnaissance was not the most exciting duty for a pilot in the war. The airplanes they flew in, such as Caudrons, Albatros B.II, Slamson 2A2s, and the American De Havilland DH-4, were not the fastest or sleekest of the fleet. But in conjunction with other aerial observation systems--balloons, dirigibles, man-flying kites, and the fesselschraubenfliger (an early helicopter)--reconnaissance airplanes saw enemy movement long before it could be seen from the ground. And out of reconnaissance activities, all other military uses for aircraft emerged. The reconnaissance pilots were the first to fire at enemy airplanes and they were the first to drop grenades on troops below. The names of the reconnaissance pilots are not as well remembered as the names of the aces, but it was due to their activities that aviation became a part of modern war.



Pamela Feltus http://www.centennialofflight.gov/essay/Air_Power/WWI-reconnaissance/AP2.htm

Planes took off from a field just inland from Seahouses to patrol the misty coast and the treacherous waters of the “war channel” for German U-boats. After two months of flying, Lt. Shier and his plane went down in the fog in the North Sea on September 6, 1918, twenty miles from shore. Within ten weeks of his death, German submarine crews were told to 'Proceed to the nearest British Port with open hatches and surrender'. The Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.

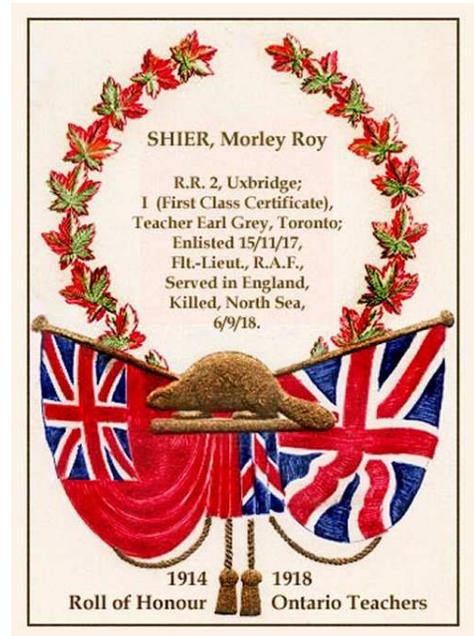
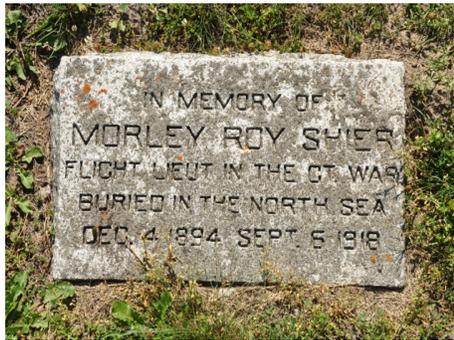
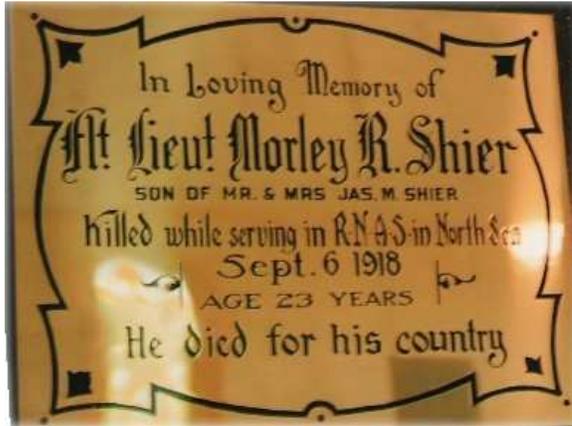


Landing field used by the RAF in 1917-1918 near Seahouses, no longer in use.

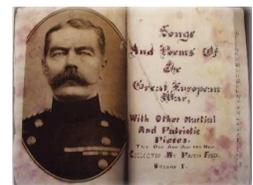


Lt. Morley Shier's name is on the Hollybrook Memorial in Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton, England. The memorial was erected by The Imperial War Graves Commission to list the names of those who were lost at sea. About one third of the officers and men on the memorial are from Canada.

Morley Shier also has a memorial plaque in Ontario to commemorate his service to Canada. It is on the wall of St. Paul's Church in Leaskdale [now called Historic Leaskdale Church]: "He died for his country."



[Montgomery's hero from the Boer War, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, is also commemorated at Hollybrook because he died in the North Sea when his battle cruiser was sunk in 1916. Montgomery wrote about Kitchener on June 10, 1916: "... Kitchener has seemed little less than a demi-god. He was the greatest man and the most dramatic figure in the British Empire. His death brought to me an agonizing sense of personal loss."]



Credits for Morley Shier

photo of Morley Shier from the collection of Mary Beth Cavert and provided with permission from the Uxbridge (Ontario) Museum. Grave marker from Roger Shier.

Images of Shier from Veteran Affairs of Canada, Larry J. Shier, Roger Shier.

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem/photos&casualty=2895119>

photo of De Haviland D.H. 6 <http://jnpassieux.chez-alice.fr/html/Dh6.php>

photo of Leaksdale plaque from the collection of Mary Beth Cavert

photo of Lord Kitchener from Arthur John Lockhart collection, with permission of Lockhart family

Seahouses airfield map 1918 http://www.abct.org.uk/page_1160.html

Map of North Sea http://uboat.net/maps/north_sea.htm

Military History Journal - Vol 5 No 1, HMS *Titania* 1917-1918, by G. Hawthorne (surrender quote)

<http://rapidtp.com/milhist/vol051gh.html>

HISTORY OF WORLD WAR I

<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=25&HistoryID=aa01>

Veteran Affairs Canada – Canada Remembers [http://www.vac-](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem/Detail&casualty=2895119)

[acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem/Detail&casualty=2895119](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem/Detail&casualty=2895119)

RAF.com – the History and Heritage of Canada's Air Force

<http://www.rcaf.com/aircraft/trainers/dh6/index.php?name=D.H.6>

Royal Air Force History <http://www.raf.mod.uk/history/h256.html>

A reader's Guide to Canadian Military History <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/military/025002-6034-e.html>

Veteran Affairs Canada - A Memorial to The Seamen of The Great War [http://www.vac-](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=memorials/ww1mem/seamen)

[acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=memorials/ww1mem/seamen](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=memorials/ww1mem/seamen)

The Hollybrook Memorial Southampton, Hampshire

http://ww1cemeteries.com/british_cemeteries_memorials/hollybrook_southampton.htm

Corson's Corner <http://www.ontariogenealogy.com/Victoria/history/bexleypioneers.html>

R.F.C., R.N.A.S., R.A.F., REGISTER 1914 -1919

<http://www.rfc-rnas-raf-register.org.uk/RFCRegister.htm>

The CANADIAN GREAT WAR HOMEPAGE

http://www.rootsweb.com/~ww1can/resource.htm?o_xid=0039432393&o_lid=0039432393&o_xt=39216201

Air of Authority - A History of RAF Organisation <http://www.rafweb.org/Index.htm>

Germany's High Sea Fleet in the World War <http://www.richthofen.com/scheer/scheer14a.htm>

1901 Census of Canada Page Information

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/DisplayPagePanb.jsp?id=97149&highlight=13&desc=1901+Census+of+Canada+page+containing+Catharine+Shier>

Montgomery's Other Soldiers

L.M. Montgomery kept photographs of soldiers on the wall of the Manse called “khaki row,” perhaps of the young men in her congregation like Will and Allen Mustard. We don't know whose photos she displayed, but here is a list of some of the soldiers with whom she corresponded or knew through their families or fame:



Lieutenant Milton MacLaren Gordon was the brother of Montgomery's teacher and friend, Hattie Gordon Smith. MacLaren was a descendant of the Prince Edward Island “Brudenell River pioneers.” He joined May 1, 1916, (age 35, 11 months) and was assigned to the Northern British Columbia Engineer Corps designated as the 102nd Battalion, 11th Brigade, 4th Canadian Division. He was killed October 21, 1916, at the Regina Trench in the Battle of the Ancre Heights. He is buried at Adanac Military Cemetery, Somme, France. [see *The Shining Scroll*, September 2009]

Second Lieutenant Kenneth Cruit was a young fan from Lancaster, England, who corresponded with Montgomery starting in 1913. He sent her a photo of himself in uniform, which she received about ten days after hearing about Goldwin Lapp's death in January 1917, and added it to khaki row. He enlisted in July 1916 (age 18), and served as a Second Lieutenant with the 8th Yorkshire Regiment and then as a First Lieutenant with the Kings African Rifles.



Sergeant Hugh Carlyle Montgomery was her half-brother, who enlisted in October 1914 (age 21, 8 months). He joined the new 27th (Winnipeg) Battalion of the CEF, which became part of the 6th Infantry Canadian Brigade, 2nd Canadian Division. He was at the St. Eloi Craters and in Flers-Courcelette during the Battles of the Somme 1916. Maud wrote that Carl “lay in the snow 18 hours before he was found” at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 where he lost a leg. He was treated at the 16th Canadian General Hospital in Orpington near London and then sent to Toronto for rehabilitation where Montgomery met him for the first time in November 1917 -- he told her stories of what trench life was like.



Lance Corporal Archibald McMurdo Lefurgey was the brother of Montgomery's long-time friend, Nora (Campbell). Archie was a farmer in St. Eleanor's, Prince Edward Island and joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons, which performed as infantry and cavalry. He enlisted in September 1914 (age 21, 9 months), and was killed on March 23, 1918, during the 1918 Battle of the Somme in The Battle of St. Quentin. He is buried “near this spot” at Chauny Communal Cemetery British Extension, Aisne, France.



Sergeant Willard Victor Agnew was the son of Montgomery's dear friend, Laura Pritchard, and named after Laura's brother, Willy. He enlisted in February 1916 (age 18, 9 months), serving with the 44th Battery, 9th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, 3rd Canadian Division. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for action near Arras, France, on August 27, 1918 during the Hundred Days Offensive. Willard ran essential communications lines 1500 yards to an observation post while in full view and fire of enemy machine gunners – he was also felled two times by the concussion of exploding shells. He served for five years in World War II.



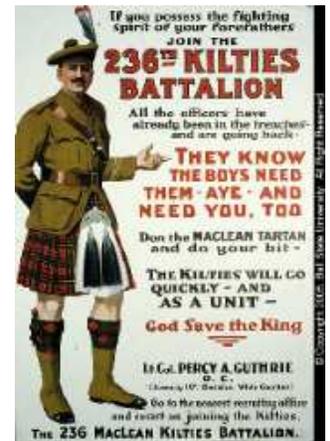
Private Donald Heath Montgomery was Maud’s first cousin who lived on the Montgomery family farm in Park Corner on Prince Edward Island. Heath enlisted on November 1915 (age 23), in the 105th P.E.I Highlanders Battalion after training with the 82nd Regiment (Abegweit Light Infantry). He arrived in England in the summer of 1916, but by December, the Battalion was broken up and some soldiers distributed among the 13th and 14th Montreal Battalions. In January 1917, the rest were sent to the 104th (New Brunswick) Battalion, which in turn was absorbed into the 13th Canadian Reserve Battalion. Heath fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge and served through the Armistice in 1918.

Major (Sir) Andrew Macphail and Lieutenant Colonial John McCrae: Montgomery met them both in 1910 at an event honoring Lord Earl Grey. Although she never remembered meeting McCrae, she recited his famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*, at several recruitment meetings before conscription was put in place in January 1918. [see *The Shining Scroll*, October 2008]



Lieutenant Nathaniel Cameron McFarlane (recorded as MacFarlane by Montgomery) was the husband of Montgomery’s best friend, Frederica Campbell, a teacher at Macdonald College (part of McGill University but 35 miles away). He was an “analytical chemist” from Fredericton, New Brunswick. He earned a teacher’s license in New Brunswick in 1913 and was hired by Macdonald College as an assistant in chemistry. He met Frederica at that time because they both were hired as a result of the Agricultural Instruction Act of 1913. He finished his undergraduate work at McGill University by 1915 (working “with Dr. Snell on properties of maple sugar”) followed by a teaching assignment at Macdonald. His previous service was as a Lance Corporal with the 28th New Brunswick Dragoons.

He enrolled in the Canadian Officers’ Training Corps, which provided military training for McGill students and staff. When he enlisted on March 11, 1915 (age 23, 1 month), he signed up with the 38th Ottawa (“University”) Battalion, in D Company, which was a unit of recruits from the Training Corps of McGill. The company was soon sent overseas and the 244 men and five officers from McGill joined the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry in the field on July 28, 1915. McFarlane served until about September 1916 when he was back in Canada.



He signed on with a newly forming Scottish regiment, in his hometown of Fredericton, the 236th Overseas Battalion (The New Brunswick Kilties) on September 13, 1916. It was later named the 236th O.S. Battalion, C.E.F. MacLean Highlanders. The Battalion boasted that its officers were all overseas veterans.

McFarlane may have been assigned recruiting duties to bring the battalion up to strength, since his name is not included with other officer-instructors. On May 15, 1917, his battalion was given a six-day leave from training exercises and he married Frederica on May 16th. After the five-day honeymoon, Cam returned to Fredericton and Frede wrote to Maud to tell her the news. Frede took Cam to her home at Park Corner, Prince Edward Island, in the summer of 1917 to meet her family -- Frede’s nieces were every impressed with his kilt uniform.

The battalion went overseas in late October 1917 (Maud wrote on October 24 that she and Ewan met Cam for the first time) and arrived in Liverpool on November 19.

The 236th went to France in March 1918 but then the “Kilties” were dispersed from the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camps among several battalions. McFarlane may not have been assigned to a unit until several months later. His record notes that he was promoted to Lieutenant on October 19, 1918 (although he listed his rank as Lieutenant in his Officers’ Declaration Papers in October 1917 – he probably had been an acting Lt. in previous action) and returned to the Princess Pats on October 23, 1918 during the final phase of “Canada’s Hundred Days.”

By November 10, the PPLI had removed Germans from villages and arrived at Jemappes, Belgium, on the outskirts of Mons, as the Canadian Corps chased the retreating German army. They remained there until November 11, 1918, when they entered Mons after the Armistice was signed.

Frederica died of the influenza in January 1919 while Cam was overseas. McFarlane ended his military service on March 20, 1919. Afterwards, he spent five days in late April with the Macdonalds in Leaskdale. Montgomery was insulted by his immature behavior and lack of grief over the death of his wife. She sadly turned away from this last link to her best friend and put him out of her life. McFarlane finished his graduate work in chemistry at McGill University by 1921.

L.M. Montgomery, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, and Sir Andrew Macphail

On Friday September 6, 1910, Lucy Maud Montgomery received a telegram from the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island: "His Excellency Earl Grey will be in Charlottetown on Sept. 13 and wishes to meet you." The 4th Earl Grey (Albert Henry George Grey, a British nobleman) was Governor General of Canada (1904-1911) and he was a fan of Montgomery’s popular first book, *Anne of Green Gables* (1908). Montgomery met him when he arrived on Prince Edward Island and joined his party at the home of Dr. Andrew Macphail.

The Grey Expedition and Its Doctor

Earl Grey had been Administrator of Rhodesia, South Africa [present-day Zimbabwe] 1896-97 a few years before his appointment as the representative in Canada of King George V. The popular Lord Grey worked to keep the ties between Canada and Britain, as well as the United States, strong. He was interested in arts and culture and was well-known as a traveler who liked “to get out in the open and see things first hand.” On August 8, 1910, he initiated an expedition to find a port on Hudson Bay to serve a railway “route as an outlet for the western harvest and the products of Keewatin and Ungava.” “Canada’s Governor Finds the Frozen North ‘Rich’” in the *New York Times* [Sept. 18, 1910] records the trip:



From Winnipeg Earl Grey traveled by rail to Gimli, on Lake Winnipeg. Here a small mounted police patrol boat carried him northward to Norway House where the long canoe trip through the lone northland began. Down the Nelson, shooting rapids, portaging, sailing when the wind was fair, into the Etchimamis to Painted Stone Portage, over the Height of Land and into the Hayes River ... winding in and out between mossy, well wooded banks, until, far in the distance there glimmer the waters of Hudson Bay: up the bay in a whaleboat ... and home in a Government steamer [the ice breaker and yacht, *Earl Grey*] out through the straits and down the Labrador to the St. Lawrence ...

Major J.D. Moodie, of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, first Commissioner of Hudson Bay, organized the expedition. The group included three RNW Mounted Police as bodyguards, Major G.F. Trotter, a cook, and about 24 Indians as packers and “portagers.” Other members of the party were L.S. Amery of *London Times*, George Grey (nephew of Earl Grey), R.W. Brock, Director of the Geological Survey in Ottawa, Professor [of Classics] John MacNaughton of McGill University and Dr. John Alexander McCrae of Montreal.



EARL GREY BIDS COUNTESS GREY FAREWELL.
On the verandah of the Hudson's Bay Company's bungalow at Norway House. The tenderness of this hour is touching even in the photograph.

Dr. McCrae, a physician, soldier, author, artist, and poet was born in Guelph, Ontario on November 30, 1872 (he was two years older than Montgomery and shared a birthday with her). He earned degrees in biology and pathology from the University of Toronto by 1898 and started to publish his first poetry. He left his work to serve with the Royal Canadian Artillery in the South African War in 1899. In his camp at Capetown, February 1900, he had a five-minute conversation with “the High Priest of it all,” Rudyard Kipling. McCrae returned to Montreal in 1901 as a fellow in pathology at McGill University. He first met his friend, Andrew Macphail, at Montreal General Hospital when he performed an autopsy on a child who had been Macphail’s patient.

McCrae set up his own practice as a pathologist in 1905 and worked at several hospitals. By 1908 he was a physician in Montreal at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Infectious Diseases and a lecturer in medicine at McGill.

When McCrae began working at McGill, he joined a circle of a dozen writers and artists (including Dr. Andrew Macphail) in the Pen and Pencil Club, which met twice a month at the studio of artist Edmond Dyonnet. The members sat in a semi-circle of arm chairs in a dimly-lit room and shared their work while they drank whisky and soda (“Jack” McCrae was one of two poets who were especially welcomed because their recitations were invariably shorter than the essayists). By the time McCrae was invited to join the Governor General’s excursion (in his capacity as a physician) in the summer of 1910, he had published at least 24 poems, many of them in *University Magazine*, Dr. Andrew Macphail’s periodical.

Diane Burton writes that “John McCrae was widely regarded as the most-talented physician of his generation in Canada ... For relaxation he sketched, read avidly, wrote prose and poetry, played bridge, travelled abroad, enjoyed the Canadian outdoors and belonged to various societies, learned and otherwise. His good looks, engaging personality, wit and considerable gift as a raconteur made him popular in Montreal society and his wide circle of friends and acquaintances included writers, artists, intellectuals and diplomats.”



As a boy McCrae was fascinated with ships and the sea and his father, (Lieutenant) David McCrae, “[instilled into him] a love of the out of doors, a knowledge of trees and plants, a sympathy with birds and beasts ...” However, McCrae’s most engaging quality for Grey’s expedition party was his skill at story telling. He was good company and his stories “in endless succession were told in a spirit of frank fun ...they were just amusing, and always fresh.” Macphail’s most firm impression of McCrae was his “continuous laughter.” His smile “was the smile of sheer fun, of pure gaiety, of sincere playfulness, ...”

Afterwards, the Governor General wrote to Dr. McCrae thanking him for his help during the trip and for the enjoyment of his numerous stories. Leo Amery added: “As a storyteller I have never met his equal, and every night in our mess tent or round the camp fire he would pour out his anecdotes and never repeated himself”[see Dietrich]. Two years later, Dr. McCrae spent an evening with Captain Raoul [Roald] Amundsen, a few months after his discovery of the South Pole. Amundsen was at McGill to lecture and earn money for another polar expedition. He “talked till the small hours of his South Pole experience, ...with Jack McCrae, who was also a polar explorer of sorts, having just made a trip through the Hudson Straits.”



The Grey expedition paddled, sailed, and rowed 17-foot cedar and 20-foot basswood freight canoes for ten days. They swam in the evening and enjoyed abundant fish, and suffered when, in McCrae’s words, “the mosquitos were beyond speaking.” By August 19, they ended the canoe trip at York Factory where they were welcomed with a rifle salute and dinner with “all the Indians in the district.” The party boarded the *Earl Grey* for the remainder of the journey. The ship steamed past Baffin Island – along the way they met Eskimos, observed walruses, icebergs, and glaciers. Grey was the first Governor General to visit Newfoundland and his made his third visit at St. John’s on September 9, before arriving at Prince Edward Island.



A Stop for Supplies to the Coast.

Andrew Macphail

L.M. Montgomery feigned mild annoyance at the invitation to meet the Governor General of Canada. “I had a worrisome summer and was hoping for a quiet fall. However, ...there it was – almost ‘a royal command’ – certainly not to be disregarded if it could be obeyed. There seemed to be no way out of it, short of breaking my leg or taking the smallpox.” (SJ 2:11). Her most pressing problem was making hasty arrangements for suitable new clothing for the occasion. However, she was truly thrilled about meeting the Governor General and equally happy about the letter she received from fellow Islander, Dr. Andrew Macphail:



[September 6, 1910] I had a letter from Dr. Macphail of Montreal who is in town and who is going to entertain the Earl’s party at his old homestead in Orwell. Dr. Macphail himself is a brilliant man and a noted writer. He wrote that Earl Grey was an “ardent admirer” of my books and wished to meet the author. This is flattering, I suppose ... Dr. Macphail’s own opinion is probably of more real importance than His

Excellency's. Yet it speaks something for "Anne" too, that she should have been sufficiently delightful to a busy statesman to cause him to single her out in his full life and inspire him with a wish to meet her creator. (*SJ* 2:12)

Andrew Macphail was born on November 24, 1864 in Orwell, Prince Edward Island (he was ten years older than Montgomery). Macphail entered McGill University in 1884 and graduated with a degree in medicine in 1891. He had saved and earned enough money after graduation to spend one year training at London Hospital and then was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons. The next year he worked as a newspaper reporter and traveled to Spain, Italy, Egypt, China, and Japan. After he crossed the Pacific Ocean, he rode the Canadian Pacific Railway back to Montreal and began to practice medicine in the field of pathology (his reasearch area was studying the effects of hanging). In 1907, he became the first professor of the history of medicine at McGill and the founder and first editor of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* in 1911.

Macphail had a variety of interests outside of medicine, especially in agriculture (improving potato crops) and his Scottish lineage. In 1897 he "saved" an Island industry when he discovered a way to keep local canned lobster fresh during the voyage to European markets. He began to publish books and essays in 1905 – his most well known is *The Master's Wife* (1939), which he wrote over the course of his lifetime. It is a memoir of his family heritage on Prince Edward Island. His profile in *Canada: Weekly Journal* (February 1907) says: "... he was a man who delivered five lectures a week who did autopies for two hospitals, edited two magazines, did the medical work for a large insurance company, practiced medicine, and yet never appeared to be busy."

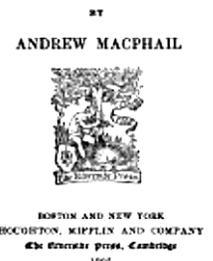
Dr. Macphail established the *University Magazine* under his own editorship in 1907, although it had originally started in 1902 at McGill University. It was published quarterly, paid its contributors, and eventually reached a circulation of 6000. Macphail financed the publication himself, and, although it began with a board of directors, his colleague Stephen Leacock wrote: "... [the] board ... was virtually swept aside by Andrew, as you brush away the chess pieces of a finished game." Ian Robertson writes that "Macphail himself contributed 43 pieces of political comment and social criticism (without payment) and for him the magazine was a vehicle to advance 'correct thought,' by which he meant a Canada that was rural, traditional and, aside from Québec, overwhelmingly British."

It was a labor of love for him and through it he became a great admirer of his colleague, JackMcCrae. WhenMcCrae submitted his 1905 poem, *The Pilgrims*, to the magazine, Macphail sent him a note: "It is the stuff of real poetry. How did you make it? What have you to do with medicine?"

Dr. Macphail enjoyed his role as a host for writers and was quite at ease in the company of "celebrities." He had a long friendship with Rudyard Kipling which began when Kipling came to McGill to give an afternoon address. Macphail "had him tamed in half an hour" in the morning and took him to his home, where he sent him upstairs to write his speech -- "I told him he ought to *write* his speech for McGill ..."

During his presentation he said, "You have here a great institution." But Stephen Leacock wondered how he could have reached that conclusion when "As far as I know he spent the entire morning with Sir Andrew Macphail in his house beside the campus, smoking cigarettes."

ESSAYS IN PURITANISM



The Foundation that bears Macphail's name describes him in this way: "Sir Andrew was a noted and admired teacher, journalist, physician, scientist, agricultural experimentalist, loving husband and father, author, soldier, historian, philosopher, editorialist, dour humorist and an expert horseman." Macphail was a father to two children and his wife died in 1902 -- he never remarried. He spent all of his career with the School of Medicine at McGill in Montreal but spent his summers at his 140 acre family homestead on PEI.

His upbringing in the Canadian countryside gave him "a love of the open air, of early hours, of the remembered stillness of the woods and the unceasing breaking of the sea." (Leacock)

Lord Grey and Dr. McCrae Come to Prince Edward Island

When the Grey expedition left Norway House in Manitoba, Lady Grey went on to Banff in the Rocky Mountains. She (and her daughter Lady Evelyn Grey) re-joined her husband at North Sydney, NS. The steamer docked in Charlottetown, PEI on Tuesday, September 13 at 4 p.m. to a 21 gun salute. The vice regal party included (with Amery, McCrae, MacNaughton, and Brock): Lord Landsborough [military Secretary to Grey], Lord Percy [Grey's aide-de-camp], and Douglas Sladen [he might have been the author and travel writer who was the first editor of *Who's Who*]. They were met by Prince Edward Island officials and their wives: Lt. Gov. Rogers, PEI Premier Haszard, Charlottetown Mayor Benjamin Rogers, Justice Fitzgerald [Supreme Court of PEI], and Hon. John Agnew [PEI Legislative Assembly]. At the train station, they were joined by author Lucy Maud Montgomery and made a short journey to Orwell for dinner with Dr. Macphail.

L.M. Montgomery spent the week before the dinner, "flying" around, traveling to Charlottetown to buy dress material and arranging for someone to stay with her grandmother in her absence. She was feeling "a little bit of triumph," noting that those who were not her friends seemed "uncomfortably speechless" about her honor. She arrived in Charlottetown on Monday and stayed with her cousin, Bertie McIntyre, who helped her prepare. She spent the evening reading Macphail's book, *Essays in Fallacy* [1910]. In the first chapter, "American Women," she read, "...wherever women have substituted idleness, or self-assertion, or both, for the gentleness, quietness and diligence to which the sex was born, the "American Woman" has emerged, to the undoing of mankind." In the second chapter, "Suffragism," she read, "A woman may be foolish and yet be charming. She emancipates herself when she becomes an object of aversion." Montgomery found it "fascinating and stimulating" with a great "deal of disagreeable truth in it" and she was prepared to discuss it, if necessary, with her host.

On Tuesday, Bertie helped her get ready like a "lady in waiting" and she went to the station to wait for an hour before the Earl's party arrived. When they did, Montgomery shook Lord Grey's hand and he told her how much he enjoyed *Anne*. She felt at home with him, but was less comfortable with his wife and daughter. After they arrived at Orwell, they rode carriages to the homestead.

Andrew Macphail was delighted to entertain some of his Montreal social circle and his PEI friends at his home in the country. His mother and sister helped host the afternoon tea which was served in a "glass veranda built across the front of the house" (*SJ* 2:15). Dr. McCrae had admired Macphail's fishing rod and was encouraged to try it out, although Macphail had never let anyone else use it. McCrae went away from the house to a ravine where a brook opened into a pool surrounded by alders. He showed his skill at casting for



the sea-trout that were running. Macphail wrote, “Thirty years before, in that memorable visit to Scotland, he had been taken aside by ‘an old friend of his grandfather’s.’ It was there he learned ‘to love the trooties.’ The love and the art never left him.”

Meanwhile, Earl Grey invited Montgomery to go for a walk to discuss her books. They went through the cherry orchard, and followed a path to a small white building with a lace curtain in the window. They sat down on its steps and he asked her questions for half an hour. She promised to send him her new book, *Kilmeny of the Orchard*, and some of her poems. He asked her if she had been nervous about meeting him and she replied, “Yes, I’ve been in a blue funk.”

While they were gone, Dr. Macphail’s sister found Lady Grey walking the veranda in a state of agitation. She asked Janetta Macphail, “How old a woman do you think Miss Montgomery is?” Janetta guessed that Maud was about 35 (she was almost 36) and Lady Grey replied, “I had hoped she was at least forty.” Maud later recalled, “I remembered that the Countess had met us in the orchard and had whisked the Earl off without even a glance at me. I thought it rather odd and very rude of her, but concluded that it was probably my ignorance of the way of the English aristocracy that led me to think it so” (*SJ* 2:403). Montgomery was flattered.

As the guests walked around the grounds, Grey and others walked over to Macphail’s neighbor to meet him in his barn. He forked clean straw onto a bench so they could sit while they talked. The farmer, John Macqueen, felt that Lord Grey “had the heart of a farmer ... if sixty years ago I had been told that the Governor-General [would] come under my roof, I would have said that my informant was either a liar or a fool.”

The dinner was served on three tables, one inside and two on the veranda where Montgomery was seated across from Leo Amery and between Judge Fitzgerald and Lord Percy. She contradicted Percy about foreign affairs and told him how she “once got ‘drunk’ on a medicinal dose of whisky.” She was embarrassed later because she thought she was talking to Dr. Brock, instead of someone who knew more about Egypt and Germany than she did! The party ended by 10 p.m. and Montgomery returned to Charlottetown.



The next day, she received another invitation to have dinner on board the *Earl Grey*. On Wednesday morning, the Governor-General made a presentation to the commander of his ship for good service, then he visited a school in Hazelbrook. Montgomery joined his party for dinner at 7:30 pm before they left the Island.

Again, Bertie helped her get ready. She rode a cab to the wharf and she stepped into a row boat with Amery and Macphail in a pouring rain. On board, she was escorted by Professor MacNaughton who talked to her through the dinner. They made a toast to the King with champagne and she successfully curtsied her way, backwards, out of “the Vice-Regal presence.” Later, the Earl knelt down between the chairs where Montgomery and Mrs. MacNaughton were seated. He asked Maud about her grandmother and sent his regards to her. Montgomery was charmed – “I do not wonder that he is a popular Governor General” (*SJ* 2:17).

When Montgomery wrote about this experience in later years, she chose to repeat the memory of her private audience with Earl Grey by the white building behind the orchard -- which turned out to be the Macphail water closet [“outhouse”]. “I was mortally afraid that some poor unfortunate was cooped up in the house behind us, not able to get out; and I beheld with fascinated eye

straggling twos and threes of women stealing through the orchard in search of the W.C. and slinking hurriedly back when they beheld the Earl and me gallantly holding the fort!" She was always amused by it and shared it with friends as one of her favorite stories.

In Flanders Fields

Montgomery may have been introduced to Dr. John McCrae at Orwell, but she never mentioned it in her journals or any of her published correspondence. She undoubtedly focused all her attention toward Earl Grey and Dr. Macphail and, amid all the "lords and ladies," overlooked the handsome pathologist/poet with the fishing rod.

John McCrae enlisted in the First Brigade of the Canadian Field Artillery when Canada entered World War I in 1914. Because he was 42, he was needed the assistance of a friend from the Boer War, Edward Morrison, to get an appointment as a brigade-surgeon with the rank of Major (and second-in-command to Morrison). On April 17th he earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was positioned with Canadian and French troops on the west bank of the Ypres-Yser canal in the brutal battle at Ypres in April 1915. It was a wet, muddy "hellhole" with ceaseless shelling and carnage – "seventeen days of Hades."



He always wore a combat uniform, not a medical uniform. Macphail wrote that "although [McCrae] was attached as Medical Officer..., he could not forget that he was no longer a gunner, and in those tumultuous days he was often to be found in the observation post rather than in his dressing station." His dressing station was in a hole dug at the foot of the bank of the canal. Sometimes soldiers were shot from above him and rolled down into his dugout.

There are varied accounts about how McCrae wrote his most famous poem from this battle, but most note that it began with the death of a close friend, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, when Helmer was hit by a shell outside his dugout. Helmer's body parts were collected in an empty sand bag and McCrae conducted the simple burial service on May 2. He was said to have written the poem the next day on a scrap of paper placed on the back of a junior artillery officer, Lawrence Moore Cosgrave, a McGill graduate.



One account says that he was seen writing the poem sitting on the rearstep of an ambulance the next day while looking at Helmer's grave and the vivid red poppies that were springing up amongst the graves in the burial ground. Another account says that McCrae was so upset after Helmer's burial that he wrote the poem in twenty minutes in an attempt to compose himself. A third account by his commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Morrison, states that John told him he drafted the poem partly to pass the time between the arrival of two groups of wounded at the first aid post and partly to experiment with different variations of the metre.

<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/poems/iffinspn.htm>

Morrison wrote that they watched the dead being buried in a newly formed cemetery a few hundred yards away from their position, row on row. And they often heard the larks in the morning high in the air, between the explosions of their own guns firing shells. The poem found its way to the British weekly magazine, *Punch*, where it was published, unsigned, on December 8, 1915.

Andrew Macphail was in Flanders when he read the poem and recognized its author and his style. The poem was a rondeau, an old fashioned form which had been popular in the 1880s and 90s. *In Flanders Fields* became the "poem of the army." Macphail recorded that "the soldiers have learned it with their hearts, which is quite a different thing from committing it to memory. It circulates, as a song should circulate, by the living word of mouth, not by printed characters. That is the true test of poetry, -- its insistence on making itself learnt by heart." In the innumerable repetitions, the soldiers changed the words -- among the crosses, felt dawn and sunset glow, lived and were loved.

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IN FLANDERS FIELDS.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid 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.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

"Will this war bring us to Kidderminster?"

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid 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.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields*

*Reuch
Dec 8-1915*

John McCrae

On June 1st, 1915, McCrae was transferred to No. 3 General Hospital at Boulogne (organized by McGill University) and worked to exhaustion -- when he took rare time off, he spent it in somber solitude riding his beloved horse. "We have heard much of the suffering, the misery, the cold, the wet, the gloom of those first three winter; but no tongue has yet uttered the inner misery of heart that was bred of those three years of failure to break the enemy's force" (Macphail). Dr. John McCrae died of pneumonia, on January 28, 1918.

At age 50, Major Andrew Macphail followed his son to war and worked for almost two years with a field ambulance corps in France and Belgium. He was knighted on January 1, 1918 for his service and literary contributions. After the war he wrote a long *Essay in Character* on John McCrae's life for G.P. Putnam's 1919 edition of *In Flanders Fields and Other Poems*. Six years later he completed the *Official History of the Canadian Forces in the Great War, 1914-19, The Medical Services* [Ottawa:1925].

The Piper

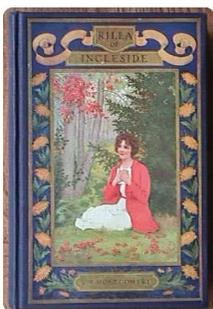
L.M. Montgomery continued writing books about “Anne” during the war years. *Anne’s House of Dreams* was published in 1917. It was dedicated to her friend, Laura Pritchard, whose son, Willard Agnew, enlisted in 1916. She wrote *Rainbow Valley* (1919) during the autumn of 1917 and finished it at the end of 1918. It was about Anne’s young children and it was dedicated to three young men from her congregation who were killed overseas.

She was very familiar with *In Flanders Fields* and its author (it was also reprinted in the US in *Ladies’ Home Journal* Nov. 1918 as “We Shall Not Sleep”). In *Rainbow Valley* she designed the character of Anne’s second son, Walter Blythe, as a budding gifted poet [see M.E. Smith for a comparison to Bernard Freeman Trotter]. As a dreamy child, he was attracted to the German myth of the pied piper who took the children away from the town of Hamelin Germany in the Middle Ages. He had a vision that the piper would call him.



Montgomery began writing the next book in the Anne series, *Rilla of Ingleside* (1920), in March 1919. One month later, Willard Agnew was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions from the summer of 1918. Within thirty minutes he was knocked down two times from the concussion of shells as he laid down 1500 yards of communication line while under heavy machine gun fire.

Montgomery sent Walter Blythe to war and he was awarded a D.C. medal. Walter wrote to his sister, Rilla, that he couldn’t imagine the daffodils at home, blowing “bright and golden.” He felt that they must be “dyed red with blood – like our poppies here.” Before his death, Walter wrote a poem in his dugout and sent it to the London *Spectator* [McCrae’s poem was rejected by this publication].



“The poem was a short, poignant little thing. In a month it had carried Walter's name to every corner of the globe. Everywhere it was copied-- in metropolitan dailies and little village weeklies--in profound reviews and "agony columns," in Red Cross appeals and Government recruiting propaganda. Mothers and sisters wept over it, young lads thrilled to it, the whole great heart of humanity caught it up as an epitome of all the pain and hope and pity and purpose of the mighty conflict, crystallized in three brief immortal verses. A Canadian lad in the Flanders trenches had written the one great poem of the war. "The Piper," by Pte. Walter Blythe, was a classic from its first printing.” (RI 226)

Montgomery did not include Walter’s poem in *Rilla of Ingleside*. She finally wrote it about 22 years later for the unpublished (in her lifetime) manuscript of *The Blythes are Quoted*. She also sent the poem to the magazine *Saturday Night* three weeks before her death on April 24, 1942. It was published on May 2, 1942. She wrote two verses, not “three brief immortal verses.”

The Piper

One day the Piper came down the Glen,
Sweet and long and low played he ...
The children followed from door to door
No matter how those who loved might implore,
So wiling the song of his melody
As the song of a woodland rill.

Some day the Piper will come again
To pipe the sons of the maple tree. ...
You and I will follow from door to door,
Many of us will come back no more!
What matter that if Freedom still
Be the crown of each native hill?

Montgomery may have overlooked John McCrae in 1910, but she did not overlook his war story or his famous poem. She wrote to G.B. Macmillan, her friend in Scotland [*My Dear Mr. M.* April 7, 1918]:

You were asking what I recited at the recruiting meetings -- which of course have ceased since conscription came in [Jan. 1918]. Well, I had lots of pieces, mostly patriotic of course. But the one I always give for an encore was "In Flanders Fields," written by one of our Canadian soldiers, who now himself sleeps "somewhere in France." The poem has had a tremendous success. It was reprinted everywhere and likely you have seen it but I enclose a copy on the chance that you have not. I think it is very fine. It was a regular slogan here in the election campaign ...

Amid all the wreck of matter and the crash of worlds
the friendship of "kindred spirits" at least abides.
May the gods be good to you.



Author's note: I began this research around 1990 when I bought Sir Andrew Macphail's wonderful book about John McCrae and realized that the good doctors had been together with L.M. Montgomery during (in her words) the "Grey times." I visited the beautiful McCrae House in 1997 and have been looking forward to completing this chronicle ever since. My children are distantly related to the clan McCrae -- my son bears the fine middle name of McCrea. I hope that the next time they return to Eilean Donan Castle, they will place a poppy at the memorial there.



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Images

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- Individual image ofMcCrae at Norway House <http://www.grandriver.ca/RiverConferenceProceedings/DietrichB.pdf>
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- Eilean Donan Adam Cuerde <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:EileanDonanRollOfHonour.jpg>
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periodical of the L. M. Montgomery Literary Society

Grave stone image by Roger Davies http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:John_McCrae_grave.JPG

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Mary Beth Cavert has been an internationally recognized Montgomery scholar since 1996. Her research has appeared in a variety of books about Montgomery as well as in the periodical, *The Shining Scroll*

<http://home.earthlink.net/~bcavert/id9.html>

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Album, and *The Intimate Life of L.M. Montgomery*.

These excerpts are from her unpublished book manuscript,

L.M. Montgomery's Kindred Spirits: The Friends of Anne.

