

PTE. SIDNEY KEILLOR



DIED FROM WOUNDS

Gallant Young Wallacetown Soldier Gives Up His Life in France

Mr. and Mrs. Alvro Keillor, Wallacetown, received official word yesterday that their son, Pte. Sidney Keillor, had died in the Fourth General Hospital, France, on Saturday from wounds received but a week previous. The news of the death of the gallant young soldier caused deep regret in the entire community and especially in his native village, where he was a general favorite and held in highest regard by his companions. He was a student of the Dutton High School and was preparing to take a medical course when he enlisted with the Canadian Mounted Rifles at Hamilton, and went overseas nearly two years ago and has been at the front since. Besides his parents he leaves two sisters and five brothers: Mrs. J. A. Lucas and Miss Gladys, Stanley and Glen, Wallacetown; Dr. Clifford Keillor, Guelph; Dr. B. F. Keillor, Dutton, and Dr. Fred. Keillor, Edmonton.

SERGEANT ELLIS SIFTON V.C.



FOR VALOR ON BATTLEFIELD

Duke of Devonshire Presents Father With V.C. Won By Sergt. Sifton

The Duke of Devonshire, the Governor-General of Canada, performed a unique ceremony in connection with the opening of the National Exhibition in Toronto on Monday, when he presented the Victoria Cross that had been so gloriously won by Lance-Sergt. Ellis Wellwood Sifton to his father, Mr. J. J. Sifton, of Wallacetown. It was a simple ceremony, simply performed, but the bronze medal given "For Valor" is an embodiment of as brave an act as the annals of Canada will ever record.

The ceremony took place before the grand stand, and sometime previous a little group had gathered in the background of the field and near where a flag-covered stand had been prepared, from which the presentation was made. The people here assembled were relatives of Lance-Sergeant Ellis Wellwood Sifton, of the 18th Battalion, whose wonderful feat on the battlefield in the performance of which he lost his life and won the Victoria Cross, has now brought to Canada one of the most signal honors recorded to her credit. Among

the group were two uncles, Frank Sifton and his wife, of St. Evans, and Harry Sifton, of Highgate; Mrs. W. C. Sifton and her son, Harry Sifton, of Palmyra, and Mrs. Hobbs, of London. Later the group was joined by J. J. Sifton of Wallacetown, Ont., father of the dead hero, to whom the Victoria Cross was given as the nearest of kin to his son.

How Sergeant Sifton Met His Death

Writing to his brother, Capt. B. F. Keillor, Dutton, from France, Pte. Sid Keillor thus describes Sergt. Sifton's death:

"Ellis broke through our barrage, charged a machine gun, bayoneted the crew, ran down the trench and held up a bunch of Heinies. He then waited for the first wave and climbed over the top to go to supports, when he was sniped and killed instantly. I followed the first wave with a machine gun. Ellis was leading the first line of the first wave with his platoon. Everyone's eyes were on Ellis, because he was recommended in a raid two weeks previously, and not only that he seemingly did not have any fear. I was with him most of the time, and just before the attack he told me he had a "hunch" that he would be killed, but he wasn't worrying. If anything happened I was to let his folks know, and so I did, but it was a very hard letter to write."



Capt. C.M. Keillor, M.D. Kingsville
SON OF MR. & MRS. A. KEILLOR WALLACETOWN
SERVED IN SALONIKA, IN WORLD WAR I.
ALSO, IN WORLD WAR II WAS PROMOTED TO MAJOR

Sergeant Ellis W. Sifton, Elgin County's only winner of the Victoria Cross, which was awarded posthumously to him for valor during the Battle of Vimy Ridge in World War I. With the men under his command he raided a German machine gun nest which was menacing the Canadian troops. The nest was captured and the hazard removed, but Sergeant Sifton, whose own actions did so much to attain their objective, died in the action. Sergeant Sifton was a native of Wallacetown, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sifton of that place. He went overseas with the 18th Battalion.



Capt. B.F. Keillor, M.D. Vancouver, B.C.
SON OF MR. & MRS. ALVRO KEILLOR WALLACETOWN
SERVED IN WORLD I. IN MEDICAL CORP. AT ALDERSHOT ENGLAND



M.D. Capt. F.A. Keillor
Edmonton ALBERTA
SON OF MR. & MRS. ALVRO KEILLOR WALLACETOWN
SERVED IN IMPERIAL ARMY IN WORLD WAR I IN THE DARNELLES

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Malcolm Robert Graham. Born 1877. Wallacetown
Parents-of pioneer stock. John Carswell Graham
Isabella Campbell Graham.
Willie's Corners public School -Dutton High School.
University of Toronto Medical Degree. 1906
Practiced medicine in Lakefield. Ontario
Joined the Canadian Medical Corps 1916
Served in Canada.England and France.
Wounded 1917 in France.
Invalided to England 1918
Married Nursing Sister Florence Bloy 1918.
After many months in Hospital in Canada became Medical
Superintendent of Essex County Sanatorium.Windsor, where
he died as a result of his service overseas.Buried in
Fairview Cemetery Dutton. 1930 . Death was Dec.25-1930
Left a wife and son and daughter.



Captain LORNE BENJAMIN GRAHAM M.D.

PARENTS- MR. & MRS. MOSES WILLEY GRAHAM, WALLACETOWN, ONTARIO

ATTENDED WILLEY'S CORNERS school, Dutton High School

GRADUATED AT TORONTO UNIVERSITY IN 1907

WENT TO CALIFORNIA TO PRACTISE MEDICINE, ENLISTED WITH R.A.M.C. IN 1914

SERVED WITH MEDITERRANEAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, ALSO NO. 7 STATIONARY HOSPITAL, FRANCE

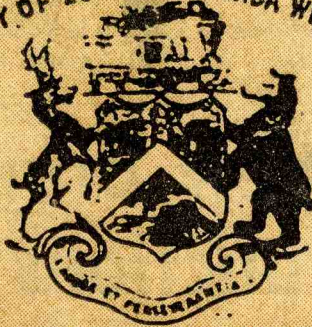
DIED IN ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL IN MONTREAL IN 1923

Wallacetown's first Post office

The first post office was held in a small white house which stood on the corner of the Currie Road and the main Street (from Currie Rd. east was then called back street) The house was owned by the Gunn Family, the family living in the same building. The daughter Bella, a maiden lady was the first post mistress, early in the 1880's. The family lived in the same building. Later it was moved to Cusacks store where the present P.O. stands (1969) Mr Cusack was a tin smith and had his shop at the rear of the building. The post office was held on the left as you entered, and on the right groceries were sold. Two daughters, Doll and Anne, both served as Post mistress. On the death of Doll, and the marriage of Anne, (who later became Mrs Walter Stidwell) the eldest daughter, Emma took over the post office with the help of her niece Eva Cusack who carried on after Emmas death till 1938 when she married Mr Dunsmore, and left to live in St. Thomas. Mrs Blanche Leeming then served as post mistress for the next 23 yrs. when in 1961 Mrs. Gertrude Sloan became post mistress and still serves (1969)

PROCLAMATION!

CITY OF LONDON, CANADA WEST



INCORPORATED 1855.

WHEREAS,

IN PURSUANCE OF

An Act of Parliament,

Passed on the 29th day of March, 1867,
Instituted an "Act for the

UNION OF CANADA,
NOVA SCOTIA

AND

NEW BRUNSWICK

And the government thereof, and for the
purposes connected therewith,"

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Hath, by Royal Proclamation bearing date
the 29th day of March, 1867, ordained,
declared and commanded, that on
and after the

First Day of July
1867,

The said Provinces of CANADA, NOVA SCOTIA
and NEW BRUNSWICK, should form and be

ONE DOMINION!

Under the name of

CANADA;

AND WHEREAS, at a Public Meeting held at the
City Hall on the 26th inst., it was resolved that
the day should be kept as a day of General Rejoicing:—
Therefore, I, F. SMITH, Mayor of the City of London,
do hereby request that the Citizens thereof do observe
and keep the said

1ST DAY OF JULY NEXT

AS A

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

By closing all places of business, Hoisting
Flags and other Decorations, and
doing all in their power to aid
and assist in inaugurating

THE NEW DOMINION.

Given under my hand, at the City of London,
this 27th day of June, A.D. 1867.

F. SMITH,
MAYOR.

Mayor's Office, London,
June 27th, 1867.

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A dream exceeded

By L. N. BRONSON
of The Free Press

A dream came true in 1867 —
a new nation came into being.

Four of the six British possessions in Eastern North America — Canada West, Canada East, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia — united to form one dominion. Two others, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, remained on the outside, the former only a few years, the latter

until after the Second World War.

Far to the west, British Columbia, newly joined with Vancouver Island, remained a separate colony. Between the east and the west lay the developing Red River Colony and a vast territory of which knowledge was limited.

In the 100 years since 1867 Canada has grown — it has exceeded even the vision of those who saw a nation stretching

from the Atlantic to the Pacific, for it has grown far to the north. Today Canada speaks with authority in the councils of the world.

It remains a memorial to those who fought for their ideal — men like Alexander Galt, who insisted on a federation plan as early as 1858, D'Arcy McGee the eloquent proponent, John A. Macdonald and George Brown, the arch-rivals, Georges-Etienne Cartier, Charles Tupper, Leonard Tilley, and a host of others.

Yet, its people entered historic 1867 with uncertainty. Confederation was taken for granted, but no one knew when it would come. There were misgivings that when it became effective, it might not work. There was an atmosphere of waiting, a feeling the future might not be as rosy as it was painted.

As January, 1867, dawned, it is safe to assume the people in Canada West (now Ontario) were giving more immediate

thought to their own municipal elections, than to Confederation itself. Among those involved in these political battles was Frank Smith, London businessman, elected an alderman, and chosen by his fellow councilors as mayor. In the latter capacity he signed the official proclamation for London's first Dominion Day holiday.

The year dawned with mounting world tension. The Fenian threat still hung over the Canadas and over Ireland. There was anxiety over the growing friendship of the United States and Russia, over the disputed Alabama claims between Britain and the U.S.

At home Britain faced a growing Reform movement, and on the European continent the plans of Louis Napoleon of France and of Prussia, newly dominant in the German confederacy remained in doubt.

In Mexico, the empire of Maximilian was crumbling, and in the United States, President Andrew Johnson had lost his grip.

There were worries on the home front—the price of crude oil had dropped, and the price of wood for fuel had risen sharply.

Confederation was not a new proposal.

A federal union of the British possessions in North America had been visioned by Lord Durham as early as 1841. Galt had suggested it 17 years later.

The American Civil War brought the question to the forefront, together with the unsettled political situation in the Provinces of Canada West and Canada East. Ministry after ministry had failed, blocs in the one province opposed those in the other. Discord, rather than harmony, was prevalent. Sectional rivalries prevailed. Religious differences were to the fore. Co-operation was lacking, and impasses continued.

In 1864, the Maritime provinces decided to discuss union at a Charlottetown, PEI, convention.

The Canadas decided to act, as well.

A deputation was sent to Charlottetown. From this meeting developed the historic Quebec Conference of the same year, at which the basic proposals for the union were drafted. The 33 "Fathers" laid the basis for Confederation. (For those who may say the historic painting commemorating the sessions contains 34 figures, the 34th is that of the secretary, who was not an official delegate).

The two Canadas, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, had been represented. The two latter did not join the 1867 Confederation. Nova Scotia, led by Joseph Howe, sought to remain outside, but stronger forces prevailed. Nova Scotia like New Brunswick, decided to enter after guarantees had been received for the construction of the Intercolonial Railway Line to link the Maritimes with the upper provinces.

From the close of the Quebec Conference until late in 1866, there was little governmental action on the matter. The issue blew hot and cold, kept alive at times by the leaders and by supporting newspaper comment.

In the closing weeks of 1866, the London Colonial Conference, brought the dream nearer reality. Terms of confederation finally were drafted — but much remained to be done. Approval by the British parliament had to be secured. This measure in turn was not sanctioned by Queen Victoria until late March. A name for the new nation had to be selected. (There had been questions whether Maritimers would object to being called Canadians). Canada was chosen, the old province of Canada West became Ontario, Canada East became Quebec.

Late in May, the London Gazette carried the Queen's proclamation setting July 1 as the date for Confederation. Appropriately enough, Canadian papers carried that news on May 24, "The Queen's Birthday".

On July 1, 1867, the new Dominion of Canada came into existence.

Long before that, though, the country found itself in the throes

of a bitter election campaign to select members for the new federal and provincial houses. Voting was delayed until late summer. In Ontario, particularly, the campaign was strenuous. Here the question of dual-representation (that is one man representing a riding at both Ottawa and Toronto) was dominant.

Hon. John Carling was chosen London's member of both houses.

He was not a "Father of Confederation", but played a prominent role in it. He was credited by his daughter, Louise, in her memoirs published in 1917, on the 50th anniversary, with bringing the deadly political rivals, John A. Macdonald and the Globe's George Brown together.

Mr. Carling, member of the Macdonald-Cartier cabinet, and Mr. Brown were together, she wrote, "when Brown said "Macdonald has the chance of his life to do a great thing for Canada by carrying Confederation. My

father said, 'you would oppose it' ". Mr. Brown's reply was he would not, it was the only solution". Mr. Carling secured permission to tell Macdonald. He arranged the meeting between the two and was present when they shook hands, and began their talks.

If 1867 began in uncertainty, it closed with optimism. A Free Press editorial said: "A nation has cast off its swaddling clothes and no longer lives in helpless infancy. It has assumed a new

nationality It has fallen into the grooves without a jar There is a wider breadth of view than ever before".

On the 25th anniversary, it was said "The united Canada today is worth all the sacrifices The first of July was a nation's birthday Then the sun of Canadian national greatness rose and Canada became a country worthy of the world's respect and worthy of the love of her sons".