



L/Cpl John Albert Ferguson  
1895-1917



## Dedicated to Preserving the History of Glengarry

**November Guest Speakers: Gordon A. Ferguson and Elizabeth Ferguson will present "The Personal Letters and War Service Records of John Albert Ferguson, 1895-1917".**

The Ferguson family, United Empire Loyalists, moved to Glengarry in 1792, from the Mohawk Valley. They first settled in Dalkeith and then moved to Williamstown and Grants Corners.

Gordon first became aware of his uncle, through his Aunt Grace who passed away in 1983. He decided that his uncle's war medals should be returned from his aunt's home in Kingston, to the family home in Glengarry. In the course of arranging for this, a trunk of letters was discovered, and Gordon decided to organize the contents to be passed on to the rest of the family, especially the children, as a memory to his uncle. It turned out to be a significant project, taking the course of five winters of sorting and transcribing. The result is a fascinating look into the life of a young man who lived, and unfortunately, ultimately died, in the period of World War I.

John was born 23rd of April 1895 at W 1/2 Lot A Conc 4, Comwall Twp. He was the 2nd son ( 3rd child) in a family of 3

**Next Meeting**

- ☑ **Date: November 3, 8PM**
- Speakers: Gordon A. Ferguson and Elizabeth Ferguson:**  
**"The Personal Letters and War Records of John Albert Ferguson"**
- ☑ **Place: Church on the Hill, Alexandria**

boys and 4 girls. He was probably named after his Grandfather John Ferguson. His Great Grandfather Duncan Ferguson, who was in the war of 1812, purchased W 1/2 Lot A Conc. 4 Comwall Twp in 1815. His great great Grandfather, John Ferguson immigrated from Glenmorrisson, Inverness-shire, Scotland to the Mohawk Valley, New York state about 1773.

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### Help Save a Tree

We encourage the use of electronic mail to help us control costs. Please submit your email address if you are comfortable with this format. You will also be able to enjoy the newsletter in full colour rather than just B&W.



### Significant Dates in John's Short Life

- 23 Apr 1895 - Born
- Jan 1905 - Promoted to grade three
- 10 May 1915 - Joins 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles in Montreal
- 12 May 1915 - Arrives in Sherbrooke
- 09 June 1915 - Arrives in Valcartier, Quebec
- 18 July 1915 - Unit sails for England on the Hesperian
- 30 July 1915 - Unit arrives at Dibgate Camp, Shomcliffe, via Plymouth England
- 06 Sept 1915 - Hesperian sunk. Torpedoed by German submarine ( U-20 )
- 02 Oct 1915 - Moved to Ceasar's Camp Folkstone
- 05 Oct 1915 - John made his will
- 10 Oct 1915 - Sightseeing trip to London
- 24 Oct 1915 - Arrives in France
- 09 Apr 1916 - Taken on strength, Section D, 8th Company, Canadian Machine Gun Corps
- 30 Apr 1916 - Contacted CS Fever, to # 7 General Hospital, St.Omer
- 03 June 1916 - Best friend Art Stoddart (Comwall) killed in action
- 04 Oct 1916 - Friend Stuart Hermiston (Comwall) missing, later reported killed in action
- 06 Oct 1916 - To convalescent rest station for dental work
- 14 Oct 1916 - To Rest Camp
- 23 Oct 1916 - Rejoins Unit
- 08 Dec 1916 - Promoted to Lance Corporal
- 21 Dec 1916 - Granted leave to London and Folkstone. Spent 2 days with brother George.
- 02 Jan 1917 - Rejoins unit from leave
- 09 Apr 1917 - Battle of Vimy Ridge
- 09 Apr 1917 - Battle of Arras - 9th April 1917 to 16th May 1917
- 23 Apr 1917 - Wounded, severe wounds right chest and back. Taken to Casualty Clearing Station at Lozinghem. This is John's 22nd birthday
- 24 Apr 1917 - Died of wounds
- 24 Apr 1917 - Buried in Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, France, Section 111, Row G, Plot 14

5084 110156  
No. #24  
Folio. ✓

## ATTESTATION PAPER

### CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.  
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? *John Albert Ferguson*
2. In what Town, Township, or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Bornville Ontario, Can.*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Alma Ferguson*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Bornville R.R. # 2, Ont. C*
5. What is the date of your birth? *April 23rd 1895*
6. What is your trade or calling? *Student*
7. Are you married? *No.*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *Yes.*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No.*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?  
If so, state particulars of former Service. *No.*

1. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
2. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

*John Albert Ferguson* (Signature of Man.)  
*George...* (Signature of Witness.)

### DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *John Albert Ferguson*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date *10th May* 191*7* *John Albert Ferguson* (Signature of Recruit.)  
*George...* (Signature of Witness.)

### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, *John Albert Ferguson*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as a duty-bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date *10th May* 191*7* *John Albert Ferguson* (Signature of Recruit.)  
*George...* (Signature of Witness.)

### CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.  
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Montreal* this *10th* day of *May* 191*7*

*S. S. Hamilton* (Signature of Justice.)  
*S. S. Hamilton* (Approving Officer.)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

### What's Happening ??

Stay up to date with coming events of the GHS, the Glengarry Pioneer Museum and the Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum by regularly checking the GHS website Museums/Events section. [www.glengarryhistoricalsociety.com/GHS/Events](http://www.glengarryhistoricalsociety.com/GHS/Events)

### Volunteer Opportunites

If you are interested in volunteering with the Glengarry Historical Society or with one of its Museums, contact us for information on available opportunities. We are always looking for dedicated individuals who wish to join in local heritage work, events and programming.



**The Glengarry Historical Society is unveiling two new historic plaques this fall.** One commemorates the establishment of the hamlet of Quigley's Corner, later known as Lochiel, and is located in the hamlet of Lochiel itself. The other, recalling the success of the Munro and McIntosh sleigh and carriage company - the largest business that ever existed in Glengarry - is to be found on Main Street, Alexandria, across from Glengarry District High School and just a little north of where the Munro and McIntosh factories once stood.

These plaques, cast aluminum, painted green are similar to the ten historic plaques put in place in Kenyon Township in 1998 to mark the 200th anniversary of the municipality.

Glengarry is rich in history, and hopefully new plaques will be installed in coming years.

#### QUIGLEY'S CORNER

Brothers Owen and Patrick Quigley, born on a nearby farm of a family originally from Armagh, Ireland, established a hotel and a store at this crossroads in 1850. They also pursued interests in lumber and potash, and encouraged other tradesmen to locate here. Lochiel Township council meetings were long held in Quigley's Hotel, with Owen Quigley serving for 20 years as township clerk. The brothers' activities fostered the rise of the village as an economic and administrative centre, and it became known as Quigley's Corner, and later as Lochiel. The village was the headquarters from 1907 to 1966 of the Glengarry Telephone Co. Ltd., which served some 600 area customers and numbered among the last independent telephone companies in Canada.

#### QUIGLEY'S CORNER

Les frères Owen et Patrick Quigley, nés sur une ferme du voisinage d'une famille originaire d'Armagh en Irlande, établirent un hôtel et un magasin général à ce carrefour en 1850. Ils eurent aussi des visées ambitieuses dans l'industrie forestière et celle de la potasse et ils encouragèrent d'autres fournisseurs à s'établir dans le coin. Les réunions du conseil du canton de Lochiel se tinrent longtemps à l'hôtel Quigley, là, où Owen Quigley fut secrétaire du canton pendant 20 ans. Les activités des frères favorisèrent le développement d'un centre économique et administratif connu sous le nom de Quigley's Corner et plus tard Lochiel. Ce hameau fut le siège de la compagnie Glengarry Telephone Co. Ltd., qui desservait 600 clients de la région de 1907 à 1966 et qui fut l'une des dernières compagnies téléphoniques indépendantes au Canada.

#### MUNRO and McINTOSH

Near this site, from 1880 to the 1920's, stood the extensive factories of the Munro and McIntosh sleigh and carriage company, manufacturers of the celebrated "buggy from Glengarry" among many models of horse drawn sleigh, carriage and wagon. The firm's principals were farm boys and cousins from the Apple Hill-Glen Roy area, Hugh Munro (1852-1939), a blacksmith turned salesman, and John D. McIntosh (1858-1914), a wheelwright and plant manager. The firm operated a pioneering production line that at its peak before the First World War produced more than 10,000 sleighs and carriages a year. Munro and McIntosh had a workforce of more than 200, and with other area businesses including the wood products factories of J.T. Schell, brought a period of growth

and prosperity to Alexandria and surrounding Glengarry County.

#### MUNRO et McINTOSH

Dès 1880 jusqu'à 1920 près de ce site, furent érigées de vastes usines fabriquant des traîneaux, des voitures et des charettes. La compagnie Munro et McIntosh fut le fabricant manufacturier du célèbre «boghei de Glengarry», un des maintes modèles de véhicules attelés. Les principaux agents de cette firme, fermiers de souche et cousins de la région d'Apple Hill-Glen Roy, Hugh Munro (1852-1939), le forgeron devint l'agent de ventes, et John D. McIntosh (1858-1914), le charron maintenant gérant de l'entreprise. Avant la première guerre mondiale, à son crux, cette firme pionnière de production en ligne fabriquait plus de 10,000 traîneaux et véhicules attelés par année. Leur main d'oeuvre comptait plus de 200 travailleurs. Munro et McIntosh ainsi que d'autres entreprises de la région, y compris les producteurs forestiers de J.T. Schell, amenèrent à cette région d'Alexandria et au comté environnant de Glengarry une période de développement et de prospérité.

*Dane Lanken*

**The Glengarry Historical Society has recently acquired several books and papers connected with D.A. Macdonald,** the prominent 19th century businessman and politician.

The books include three accounts books for the period 1856 to 1866 for a general store that Macdonald operated in Alexandria, another accounts book for the period 1888 to 1896, and a letter book - copies of letters - sent on Macdonald's behalf when he was postmaster general in the federal government in Ottawa. The books are large, thick volumes with all entries in pen and ink.

According to Royce MacGillivray's Dictionary of Glengarry Biography, published by the Society last year, D.A. Macdonald was born in St. Raphael's in 1817. He operated stores and other businesses in Alexandria and Lancaster, and was a railway contractor and a contractor on other projects including the Montreal waterworks. He was a member of federal parliament from 1857 to 1875, and lieutenant-governor of Ontario from 1875 to 1880. His long-time Glengarry home was Garry Fen, still a prominent home on Mill Square, Alexandria. Macdonald died in Montreal in 1896 and is buried in St. Finnan's cemetery in Alexandria.

These books come at an important time for a long-time project of the Glengarry Historical Society, the establishment of an indexed and accessible archive. The Society and its two museums, the Glengarry Pioneer Museum in Dunvegan and the Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum in Williamstown, hold major collections of books and papers, but these have not been as searchable as one might wish. However, Robin Flockton, recently named vice-president of the Society, has undertaken a survey to see how these papers might be organized and made accessible to the public. Given Robin's abilities and accomplishments, great things are foreseen.

*Dane Lanken*

**Minutes of the General Meeting of October 13 2011,  
Held at the Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum, Williamstown**

Amidst the remaining exhibits of the fine "From Swords to Plow-Shares" display at Williamstown's Nor'Westers & Loyalists Museum the GHS membership begins its monthly endeavor of stimulation and exploration in a social manner.

President, Allan Macdonell, gains the audience of those in the room with an invitation to add any items to his proposed agenda. None. The secretary, Richard Bleile, was then asked to present a contracted version of the minutes of the previous (September) meeting. Motion of acceptance was seconded by Basil MacCormick and passed.

David Anderson required the help of Wendy Wirt in his usual role of drawing attention to new or rarely-seen faces in the audience.

Announcements: Robin Flockton extends an invitation to a book launch for "Memories of Glengarry Storytellers" to happen October 14th at the Glengarry Golf & Country Club; Bruce McPherson presents the GHS brochure of membership promotion; and Jennifer Black's reminder to come to watch a barn-raising at Dunvegan on Saturday, October 15.

In her words from the Nor'Westers & Loyalists Museum Gay Hamilton points to successes despite the challenges posed. She thanks the volunteers for a good season.

In reporting from the Pioneer Museum, Blair Williams takes satisfaction in the very good season enjoyed with strong public support. On October 29th there will be a haunted walk among the ghosts of the museum. A Gala dinner will be organized for February. Blair also announces that dancing lessons are being offered by Julia Danskin to bring yourselves "up to step" in old-fashioned style. A reminder of the Heritage Ball which will celebrate fifty years for the Pioneer Museum where also will be held a silent auction of heritage items.

On to the scene strolls Dane Lanken armed with a 1979 issue of "ROOTDRINKER", a North Country quarterly printed at Potsdam in which Varick Chittenden had submitted a clarifying article about the ashery in Northern New York and Upper Canada. With an air of confident "cool", Dane announces that Varick Chittenden has made the drive to speak to the GHS this evening.

Varick Chittenden has words of praise for the displays and the state of the museum and then goes on to deliver a well-received talk on folklore and culture. His region of focus is that of the North Country which he defines as the 14 counties north of the Mohawk river in New York. The folk culture is very closely reflected in the nature and characteristics of the land. (The Adirondack Park was established in 1895.) Oral traditions, music traditions, social traditions and customs, and material folk culture are all examined to illustrate the folkloric aspects of these versatile, resilient and independently-minded people in touch with the land and their respective communities.



**Dane Lanken**

**Gay Hamilton**

**Judy Campbell Chittenden**

**Dr Varick Chittenden**

Gay Hamilton thanks the speaker with a few gifts such as a sample of local maple syrup (which is "not the same" as that which Mr. Chittenden would know from his own region) and she also offers a copy of "The Rivermen"- Echoes of Lake St. Francis by Roy Lefebvre and Norman Seymore.

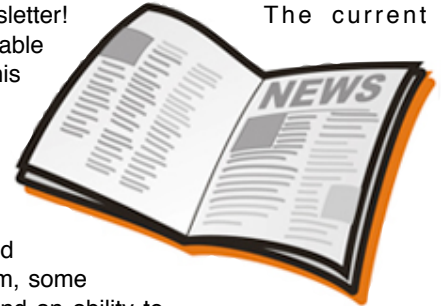
The meeting dispenses spontaneously and the refreshments committee does its bid to steal a share of the evening.

*Richard Bleile (recording secretary)*

**Volunteer Opportunity**

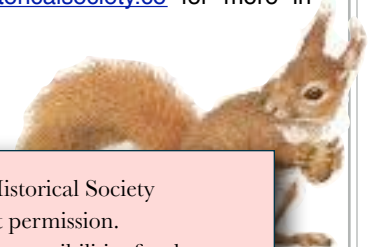
Yes, it's the chance of a lifetime to exercise your creative talents by volunteering to be the next editor of the GHS newsletter!

The current editors will not be able to continue in this role as of next summer. All you need is a little familiarity with your choice of computer word processing program, some e-mail expertise, and an ability to shamelessly snaffle images from the internet, and you're a potential editor. The current editors offer startup support for a newcomer. You are free to change the format, and all production costs are covered by the GHS.



Step right up !!

Contact the current newsletter editors at : [newsletter@glengarryhistoricalsociety.co](mailto:newsletter@glengarryhistoricalsociety.co) for more information.



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