



Heritage News

Discover Crowsnest Heritage

IN THIS ISSUE

- What's On This Fall
- Museum News
- The List
- Book Review – *Fields of Coal, Fields of War*
- Feature Article – *Great War Battlefield Tour* by Fred Bradley
- 100 Years Ago
- Sign of the Times
- Local Heritage Attractions
- Newsletter Archives

Issue #52, September 2018

Thanks are owed to the editorial team led by Ken Allred who for the last four years introduced new innovations and produced all of their issues on time. Ken and Barb Koch are taking a break so I will try to fill their shoes with help from Isabel Russell who is staying on.

Crowsnest Pass heritage revolves around some really big and dramatic events, which helps make us the most historic region in Alberta. We are equally rich in smaller stories, the ones that seldom get told because there is no place to tell them. Well, this is that place; the Feature Article in each issue tells one of these

smaller stories. If you have researched an event, person, building or family, consider submitting a Feature Article. You need not be a high-falootin' historian to contribute, as long as your submission is interesting and your own work. In the past our Feature Articles have covered everything from dinosaur footprints to diesel locomotives, from prostitutes to musicians, from Swedes to trees – have a look at past issues in our Newsletter Archives to see the surprising range of topics.

This edition is dedicated to the cessation of World War One, a century ago this November 11.

- Ian McKenzie



Coleman
Company of
192 Battalion,
about 1916

Photo:
Crowsnest
Museum and
Archives
(6046 gushneg)

Heritage News is a publication of the Crowsnest Heritage Initiative. We are a cooperative committee of local heritage organizations and interested individuals who seek to promote the understanding and appreciation of heritage within the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, Alberta. For more information on who we are and what we do, click here: <http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca/crowsnest-heritage-initiative/>

This issue was edited and produced by Ian McKenzie and Isabel Russell with guidance from Ken Allred. Inquiries, comments or submissions can be sent to cnhnewsletter@shaw.ca

What's On This Fall

Alberta Culture Days – September 28 to 30. Free admission and a special art exhibit *A Slow Light* at the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre. *M Is For Music* – performances on Sunday at the Allied Arts gallery in Frank.

Harvest of Memories – September 29. This annual Historical Society fundraiser features a gourmet meal, silent and live auctions, music and dancing. This year it's at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church hall in Blairmore; for more info contact the museum at 563-5434.

Meet Me at the Movies – October 1. *Drawing Home*, the true story of artist Catherine Whyte, co-founder of the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies in Banff. Frank Slide Interpretive Centre, 7pm.



Alberta Culture Days
2018 IN THE CROWSNEST PASS
SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1

FRIDAY, SEPT 28 – SUNDAY, SEPT 30
FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE
A Slow Light, Art Exhibit
FREE ADMISSION the following dates **only**: Friday – Sunday, September 28 – 30
For information, contact Cathy Pisony at 403-562-7388,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL
Harvest of Memory Gala
Cocktails: 5:30 pm, Dinner: 6:30 pm, Entertainment: 9 pm
Advance tickets only.
For information call 403-563-5434.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
CROWSNEST PASS PUBLIC ART GALLERY
M is for Music Concert, 2 pm,
FREE ADMISSION.
For information, call 403-562-2218

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1
FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE
Meet me at the Movies, 7 pm
Toronto International Film Festival "Drawing Home"
For information/ticket purchase call 403-563-8829. Cost \$10.

Image: Courtesy of artist Tyler Los-Jones, Sediments and Sunlight no. 8, 2017.



You are invited to

November 11;

100th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, November 10th @ 6:00 p.m.
MDM Community Centre

Prime Rib Dinner, Guest Speakers and Live Entertainment

~ \$50/person ~

Veteran's & Spouses will be fully refunded at the door!

Tickets available at Bellevue & Coleman Legion
Ticket Deadline: Saturday, Nov. 3

Celebrating our community's military contributions
in support of our local veterans!



100th Anniversary Gala – November 10, 7pm. For the 100th anniversary of the cessation of the First World War, Coleman and Bellevue Legions are putting on a 'veterans dinner' dine and dance event at MDM. Cocktails at 6pm, prime rib dinner at 7pm, dancing to the Minnesota Road Band after 9:30pm (dance is free and open to the public). Tickets are \$50 from either Legion or Copy Magic – all welcome; veterans and spouses will be refunded at the door.

Remembrance Day – November 11. Annual event at the high school auditorium. One minute of silence will mark exactly 100 years after an armistice ending the First World War came into effect. Followed by wreath-laying and open houses at both Legions.

Museum News

In June, the Crowsnest Museum experienced some sewer difficulties, and investigations showed that they were still connected to an old septic system rather than the municipal sewer lines. It seems likely that the schools in the area were not connected to the municipal infrastructure when it was installed. Uncovering a historical mystery on its own property made for a dramatic week of work for the Museum. During excavation the work crew found a second, disconnected septic tank sitting dormant under the greenspace, and also worked hard to keep the historic cement wall intact that borders the south side of the property. Happily the Museum is now connected to the municipal system and all is well with the facility, other than the large hit that their operating budget took to complete the work. Thank you to Morency Plumbing, Mohawk Excavating, and the Municipal crews for their work on the project.

Also in June the Crowsnest Historical Society adopted a new logo for the Crowsnest Museum and Archives.



In July, the Museum took possession of the CPR pocket-watch which led to the arrest of 'Alex' Auloff, the last of the Sentinel train robbers. If you don't know the story, you should consult one of the heritage signs in downtown Bellevue, or pick up a copy of the comic book from the Frank Slide Interpretive Centre.

Incidentally, this year's Bellecrest Days included a surprise recreation of the Bellevue Café shootout by costumed high school students, which caught most onlookers by surprise, as did the original deadly fracas in 1920.



Photo by John Kinnear

New in the gift shop: *Grave Stones* by Ken Roome. This retelling of the Frank Slide adds conversations and speculation to Slide victims. See the book review in our Issue #51.

Also, the 2019 Crowsnest Historical Society calendar "Musical Memories" is now on sale.

The List

Ten unusual things in the Crowsnest Museum:

- salon electric hair curler (Dr. Frankenstein-like!)
- fake human tooth collection
- WW2 warplane joystick
- stuffed porcupine
- kerosene-powered clothes iron
- mine horse helmet
- miniature saxophone
- pipe organ with fake pipes
- Thomas Gushul's golf clubs
- see-through shoes (so you can see your toes, for sizing)

Book Review

Fields of Coal, Fields of War by Rosemarie Gascoyne

Reviewed by Ian McKenzie

This remarkable book is subtitled “A History of Alberta’s Oldest Legion, Coleman Branch #9, and the Servicemen and Women of the Great War and World War II” but also includes much background about Coleman through the war years and briefly brings the Legion history up to 1991. Commissioned by the Coleman Legion, it was researched, written, designed and typeset by just one person in what must have been a very busy year.

The book covers every possible aspect of Coleman’s involvement with the two World Wars, and gives a feel for what the town was like throughout those times. It starts with a description of Coleman in 1914 and runs through to the return of veterans in 1946, with a brief description of post-war Legion activities up to 1991. In between the two Wars are chapters on early veterans’ organizations and the formation and activities of the Coleman Legion #9.

A significant part of the Second World War coverage is the inclusion of veterans biographies, grouped by service (army, navy and airforce). These bios vary from a single sentence to a few pages, the longer of which include detailed personal recollections. Here we obtain the most insight into military life during wartime. Although many veterans undoubtedly chose not to, some provide first-hand descriptions of action against the enemy. There are other personal stories, including receiving training from Arthur C. Clark (the famous sci-fi author), and a touching post-war reunion with the family dog. Bios of those who gave their lives serving their country are in a separate section.

The extensive use of sidebars throughout the book allows the interjection of newspaper articles, personal letters, and other related information without breaking up the main narrative. Besides adding ‘color’, these sidebars also provide some visual variety for pages with a lot of text. There are also a great number of black-and-white photographs and copies of documents which add interest to the main narrative.

I wish that other Pass towns could have been included, but of course Coleman was the intended scope of the book. Nevertheless, no one can doubt the appeal of this book, which is an important addition not only to veterans’ histories but to Crowsnest Pass history in general. The book is so interesting and well done that it can be enjoyed by anyone.

The hardcover *Fields of Coal, Fields of War* is available at the Coleman Legion for \$20, and is worth every penny.



Feature Article

Great War Battlefield Tour – 2018

Fred Bradley

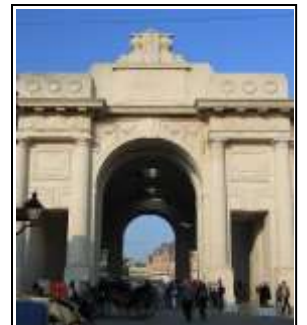


Vimy Memorial, France – May 2018

In May of 2018 I travelled to England, France and Belgium, with my sister Ginger, my brother Allen, and close friend David to visit the Great War (World War One) battlefields where our grandfather had fought and returned, and our great uncle had fought and died.

We spent two days in Ypres (Ieper) Belgium. Ypres was destroyed in the Great War and was reconstructed to reflect the original town as closely as possible.

On our first night we attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, where the citizens of Ypres conduct a service at 8 PM to commemorate the fallen Canadian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Great War to liberate the city from German occupation. The names of the soldiers whose bodies had not been recovered from the battlefield and had no known grave are inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial.



Menin Gate, Ypres

This service has been conducted every evening since November 11, 1929 except for the period of the Second World War when Ypres was once again occupied by Germany. During those years the Belgians continued to conduct the daily remembrance service at the Brookfield Military Cemetery in Surrey, England.

On the evening of September 6, 1944, having just been liberated by Polish forces earlier in the day, the citizens of Ypres resumed the service despite fighting continuing in other parts of the town.



Lance Corporal Clayton A. Bradley

PRINCESS PATRICIAS C. L. I.		PRIVATE
CORPORAL		
GALLAGHER J. B.	DOLAN W. J.	MARTIN T. J.
GORDON J.	DONALDSON H. W. W.	MATHERS W. J.
HEASLIP D.	DORGALL B.	MELLOTT G. L.
JORNER E.	DOWLING H.	METHVEY C.
KNOX J.	DOYLE J.	MILLER J. H.
LOGNON E. W.	DUNN G.	MILLS J. S.
PARSONS E. H.	EMES G. E. G.	MITCHELL W. B.
REPTENHOUSE H. W.	EDMONDSON S.	MOCHRIE T.
SPONER A. T.	ESKIN H.	MONYPENNY J. S.
WILSON G. T.	EVANS B.	MOONEY W.
	EWING A. C.	MORGAN E.
LANCE CORPORAL	FARRER S.	MORGAN H. S.
ANDERSON J. F.	FERN C. F.	MORGAN M. A.
ARCTER J.	FERTON R.	MORRIS A. R.
BAILEY A.	FERRIER N. A.	MORRISON J.
BATCHELOR G. A.	FLINTOFF T.	MORTIMER G. S.
BOWNASS J. E.	FORD E. A.	MULLE A.
BRADLEY C. A.	FORRESTER D.	MURR J.
BRIGGS D. H.	FOSTER A. H.	MURDOCH J.
CASEWELL A. H.	FOSTER H.	MYATT J. B.

Lance Corporal Clayton Bradley's name inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial

We were very moved not only by the service, but by locating the name of our Great Uncle, Lance Corporal Clayton Adam Bradley, engraved on the Menin Gate Memorial. At the time the memorial was built he was listed as killed and missing.

He had signed up with the 38th Battalion of the Canadian

Expeditionary Force on March 16th, 1915 at Guelph, Ontario where he was attending the Ontario Agricultural College, and enrolled in the Officer Training Corps. His regiment sailed from Montreal on the SS Missanabie on June 29, 1915. By the end of July 1915, he was in France serving with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. He was appointed a Lance Corporal on Oct. 21, 1915.

Before enlisting, Clayton wrote to his sister:

... I put in some days of hard thinking... I consider I am in a much better position to go than most of who have enlisted. For one thing there is no one dependent on me – I have no debts to clear... So, the only thing is leaving, and the ones I thought would mind most is father and mother. But then if it was left to all the fathers and mothers to say, there would be very few go. As it is natural that they would not like to see their sons go away.¹

He was killed at the Battle of Mount Sorrel on June 2, 1916. The casualty report of the time states the following:

Previously reported Wounded and Missing, now reported Killed in Action. This non-commissioned officer was accompanying a wounded officer back to a dressing station, when he was hit by a machine gun or rifle bullet and instantly killed. Body not recovered for burial.



LCpl Clayton Adam Bradley
Sanctuary Wood Cemetery

It was not until September of 1927 that his body was recovered from the battlefield, identified, and buried in the Sanctuary Wood cemetery. A ring engraved with the words Mizpah² and a watch were recovered with his remains and returned to the family. The ring was given to him by his family as a keepsake to carry with him as a reminder of his family and their affection for him.



A Mizpah Ring

The next day we visited the Sanctuary Wood Cemetery where Clayton's remains were interred. This was a very emotional experience for my brother, sister and me. To the best of our knowledge we were the first of our family to visit his gravesite. We were also able to look out into the field where his remains were found eleven years after his death.

We also visited the battlefield at Passchendaele where my grandfather Harold Pinkney had fought and been awarded the Military Medal for bravery.

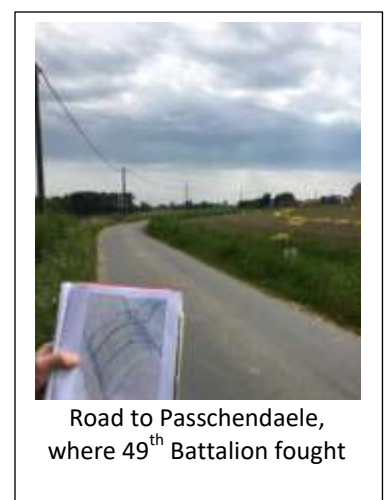
Our guide Patrick toured us through the exact territory that my grandfather and the 49th Loyal Edmonton Regiment had fought on over 100 years ago. I had inherited a blood stained "trench map" that my grandfather had carried as a runner during the Battle of Passchendaele. Patrick marked on a copy of that map the route we had taken on our tour through that terrain where my grandfather's regiment had engaged in battle.

Military History of R.W.H. (Harold) Pinkney

My grandfather, Robert William Harold Pinkney enlisted with the 192nd Crowsnest Pass Battalion in Blairmore on Feb. 19, 1916. He had the rank of Company Quarter Master Sergeant. The 192nd Battalion departed from Halifax for England on November 1st on HMT Empress of Britain. They arrived in Liverpool, England on November 11, 1916. On arrival in England the 192nd Battalion was disbanded, and Harold was transferred to the 9th Reserve Battalion and later assigned to fight in France and Belgium with the 49th Battalion (Loyal Edmonton Regiment).

His citation for the Military Medal was recorded as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty for operations during the night of Oct 28th/29th to the night of Oct 31st/Nov 1st (1917) in which the Battalion carried out an attack in the vicinity of the German line on PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE. This man, a runner throughout the period proceeding, during, and after the attack, carried messages from the Front Line under heavy fire and showed remarkable fortitude and coolness under all conditions keeping his Company



Road to Passchendaele,
where 49th Battalion fought



France, August 1917 – Harold Pinkney on right

Commander in touch with the situation on either flank and accurately reporting events. He ably assisted in dressing the wounded and carried ammunition and supplies to the men holding out in advanced shell holes. His conduct was very gallant and of great value to his Company in their advance.

He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre avec étoile (with star) by the French government with the following citation:

The soldier of the First Class, [Sergeant] Harold Pinkney of the 49th Canadian Battalion has shown proof of initiative and bravery the 13th and 14th of August 1918, at the attack of PARVILLERS, the capture of which has helped the march forward of the French Troops.



Harold Pinkney's (L-R) Military Medal, Service Medal, Victory Medal, Croix de Guerre

On our Ypres Salient battlefield tour, we also visited Essex Farm, one of the medical stations where Col. John McRae had worked as medical doctor treating the wounded. He is famous for the poem *"In Flanders Field."*

Another poignant experience was visiting 'The Brooding Soldier' memorial at Vancouver Corner where Canadian soldiers first faced deadly German gas attacks. The plaque on the memorial reads

This column marks the battlefield where 18000 Canadian [soldiers] on the British left withstood the first German gas attacks the 22-24 April 1915. 2000 fell and lie buried nearby.

The final day of our tour took us to the recently restored Vimy Memorial, which had originally opened in 1936. Words are difficult to find to describe this remarkable tribute to those Canadians who fought and died in the Great War. It is the most extraordinary of all the Allied countries' national memorials. We were able to visit in the early morning before other tours had arrived. To be there in the silence was moving and haunting.



The Brooding Soldier Memorial

After making this sojourn to trace the footsteps of our relatives through the various Great War battlefields, one is simply overwhelmed by the sacrifice made by so many Canadians who



Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium - Largest Commonwealth War Cemetery

fought and died for the freedom and liberty we enjoy today. My memory will be forever etched with images of the thousands and thousands of white marble gravestones of the slain soldiers, the countless inscriptions on the headstones of the unknown dead marked "A Soldier of the Great War", the immaculate care the Commonwealth War Graves Commission provides for the cemeteries of the fallen, and the narrow trenches and massive shell craters that have been preserved. Also, I will not forget the quiet, peacefulness and solitude of the lush countryside that, one hundred years ago,

was a relentless pit of thunderous artillery barrage, endless mud, horror, and death.

On reflecting on our trip, the words of John McCrae's famous poem resonate with me now more than ever:

**"To you from failing hands we throw,
The torch; be yours to hold it high."**

¹ Letter to sister Lillian and all – dated Saturday night, March 15, 1915

² Mizpah is derived from Hebrew and refers to a passage from Genesis in the Bible: "The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another". Mizpah jewelry was popular during the Victorian era from the mid to late 1800's and was given to a loved one as a "forget-me-not" during a period of long separation such as military service or travel. The pieces experienced a revival during the Great War (World War One), when men were leaving their families to fight in that conflict. There was also the belief that Mizpah had a certain power, that it was some form of protection for the wearer.

100 Years Ago - 1918

Most news that year was from The Great War overseas.

January 28 – death of John McCrae, author of the poem *In Flanders Fields*.

March 21 – German spring offensive.

March 30 – Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) conduct a cavalry charge at Moreuil Wood.

April 21 – The Red Baron was shot down, attributed to Canadian pilot Capt Roy Brown (but now disputed).

May 24 – most Canadian women earn the right to vote.

August 8 – Allied 'hundred days offensive' begins.

24 October to 4 November – Italian victory at Vittorio Veneto triggers end of Austro-Hungarian Empire.

November 11 – armistice ending World War One comes into effect, signed in a railway car in the forest of Compiegne, France.

Throughout 1918 – The Spanish Flu epidemic kills more people than World War One.

From the *Blairmore Enterprise*

April 26 – Blairmore town council decides to turn off street lights due to daylight savings time, saving the town 'several hundred dollars'.

May 10 – Council hears complaints of goats and cows roaming town streets.

May 17 – Mrs Stevulak from West Coleman is struck and killed by a steam locomotive, which she didn't hear because of the noise of the nearby International tippie.

October 25 – a list of Spanish Flu symptoms is published, with a suggestion to consult a doctor if noticed. "The temperature becomes normal and the patient recovers within five days, providing complications such as pneumonia, middle ear disease and affection of the heart do not occur."

Blairmore's 1918 tax rate was 40 mills, anticipated to raise a total of \$10,900.

Sign of the Times

The Crowsnest Heritage Initiative has installed four information kiosks, about fifty signs, and over a hundred building plaques, each revealing a small piece of our diverse history.

In acknowledging the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, we recommend the sign entitled *Service and Sacrifice* in front of the Lion's Park on Blairmore's main street.



Have you read it?

Our Local Heritage Sites

- **CROWNEST MUSEUM and ARCHIVES** - 7701 18th Avenue, within Coleman National Historic Site. 403-563-5434, cnpmuseum@shaw.ca . Website is www.crowsnestmuseum.ca . Glimpse the rich social, economic and natural heritage of Crowsnest Pass from 1900 – 1950 in two floors of themed rooms. Gift shop features local and regional books and many other items. Admission includes the newly-restored **ALBERTA PROVINCIAL POLICE BARRACKS** and its exhibits on prohibition, rumrunning, and the 1922 shooting of Constable Lawson and subsequent execution of 'Emperor Pic' and Florence Lossandro. Open Monday to Saturday, 9am - 5pm. Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$8, Youth (6-16) \$6, Under 6 free, Families \$24, Crowsnest Historical Society members free. Tours and educational programs are available.
- **BELLEVUE UNDERGROUND MINE** - off Main Street Bellevue. 403-564-4700, bellevuemine@telus.net , website www.bellevuemine.com . The only authentic historic underground coal mine tour available in western Canada, this family-oriented site offers the opportunity to experience what underground miners from a century ago would have experienced as they went to work each day. Open 9:00-5:00 daily in summer, check for fall and winter hours. Pre-booked and group tours are always available. Check for pricing.
- **FRANK SLIDE INTERPRETIVE CENTRE** - off Hwy 3. 403-562-7388, website www.frankslide.ca Friendly, knowledgeable staff share the fascinating stories of the Frank Slide through dynamic interpretive programs and presentations. State-of-the-art interactive displays and exhibits throughout the Centre focus on the infamous Frank Slide of 1903, Canada's deadliest rockslide. Open year round, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (9 am to 6 pm in summer). Adults \$13, Seniors (65+) \$11, Youth (7-17) \$9, 6 and under free, Families \$35.
- **HILLCREST CEMETERY PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** - Hillcrest. Visit the mass graves of the 189 victims of the Hillcrest Mine Disaster of 1914, and the many other historic graves in this picturesque cemetery. On-site interpretive signs explain it all. The **Millennium Memorial** monument is Canada's homage to miners killed across the country. The **park** has picnic tables and features interpretive signs about life in Hillcrest and the effect of the disaster. Free.
- **LEITCH COLLIERIES PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** - Highway 3. Check out the stabilized ruins of this century-old coal processing facility, explained through interpretive signs, and on-site staff during summer months. Open during snow-free months, admission by donation.
- **COLEMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE and MINERS PATH** - downtown Coleman. Take a self-guided tour of this authentic coal-mining town with a free pamphlet and map, amongst buildings from 1903 - 1986 spanning the entire coal-mining period, many of which have interpretive building plaques. Glimpse the ruins of the mine buildings and coke ovens, walk or drive through the 'miners cottage' neighbourhood of West Coleman. Don't forget your camera. An interpretive booklet can be purchased at the museum. Later, walk the pleasant **Miners Path**, retracing the steps of miners on their way to the McGillivray Mine site. All free.

Heritage News Archive

All of our past issues are archived on the Crowsnest Heritage Initiative website and can be accessed here: <http://www.crowsnestheritage.ca/2010/08/image-post-test/> . Subscription is free; you will be notified by email when a new edition is available. To subscribe or unsubscribe, just send an email to cnhnewsletter@shaw.ca .