

Who is Elmer Bagnall Muttart?

The name is on the Royal Canadian Legion's cenotaph in Borden-Carleton, PEI. It is one name among 48 names. It is a name without a face. It is a name without a story. However, with the interest and dedication of Pieter and Daria Valkenburg, it is becoming a name with a face, and with a very interesting and important story to tell. Elmer Bagnall Muttart was born in 1918, Cape Traverse, P.E.I., to Lewis Muttart and Annie Bagnall. Not much is known of his childhood, but what is now known is that he died a hero at 23 years old.

The Valkenburg's had begun a long and detailed research project to put a face and a story to each of the 48 names on that cenotaph in Borden-Carleton. Elmer Bagnall Muttart's name stood out as one with significance for Pieter, as Muttart lost his life over Pieter's homeland of The Netherlands.

To date, the Valkenburg's have discovered that Elmer Muttart, at 23, was flying his 21st bombing mission to Germany. That in itself is unusual, as many bomber pilots didn't make it past their third or fourth bombing run.

Elmer was known as Flight Sergeant Muttart with the British Air Force. He was flying his 21st mission, but it was his first in the newer and larger "Halifax" bomber. He had a crew of seven British airmen. It was October 12th, 1941. They were flying over the village of Wons in Friesland, Netherlands when they were shot down by German forces.



With his plane on fire, Muttart ordered his crew to parachute out. All seven landed safely. The burning plane was headed towards the village Wons. Being too low to parachute out, and to save the villagers' lives, Muttart steered the burning plane away, to crash in a nearby field.

"Muttart did an act of heroism that's never been recognized," says Pieter Valkenburg. "Muttart was buried with military honours by the Germans, in a local cemetery in Harlingen, Netherlands. His seven crew members were picked up and put in POW (Prisoner of War) camps."



Now, when you and I stand alongside the Valkenburg's at the cenotaph in Borden-Carleton, we will read the 48 names. We will read the name "Elmer Bagnall Muttart". We will remember his face. We will remember his story. We will remember his heroic actions which saved the lives of seven crew members and many Dutch villagers. We will remember them and we will honour them.

Elmer Muttart and the Samuel Holland connection by Fran Albrecht

Here, at Tryon and Area Historical Society (TAHS), we are very interested in all things connected to PEI's first Surveyor-general, Samuel Holland. It has been over 250 years since Holland surveyed the Island and drew its first detailed map. "Holland was the first landowner of Lot 28. He brought in the earliest settlers to this area and settled them on the land here," said TAHS president, Jack Sorensen. "We are not even sure that Samuel Holland, himself, ever visited this area. He named it after his fighting buddy in the Civil War, Capt. William Tryon."

How surprising it was for me to find a connection between Samuel Holland and Elmer Bagnall Muttart. According to the book "Remember Yesterday: A History of North Tryon, Prince Edward Island, 1769 – 1992, Volume II" published by the North Tryon Historical Association in 1993, Elmer Muttart's great-great-grandfather was Balthazar Mautarde.

Balthazar Mautarde (1738 – 1784) was a soldier and "is believed to have been a member of Holland's Prince Edward Island survey party in 1764-65. He returned with Holland in 1768 to settle at Tryon in the Aboiteau area where a number of his large family (10 or 11 children) was born.

Balthazar joined as a private when the Company of Saint John Volunteers was organized. He drew provisions and carried out the duties assigned to him, with frequent and lengthy furloughs at Tryon.

When it was decided to disband the company, word was sent to all members to report for discharge at the last muster which was set for the 12th of June 1784. Balthazar and others immediately left by boat from Muddy Cove to go to Charlottetown to get their discharge and the 100 acre grant of land to which they were each entitled. The boat carrying the men was swamped not far from shore by a strong southwest wind and they were all drowned.

Balthazar's destitute widow and family did not receive the land promised. Seven of the children were girls, which at that time was not considered a good thing. However, they were strong girls, able to cut and haul trees to the mill, as well as clear the land around the stumps for cattle, horses, sheep and pigs. The family was able to survive through their toil. The widow married James Howatt, and they settled on the land now known as Howatt's Fruit Farm at Tryon. Balthazar is thought to be buried on Everett Howatt's farm. Throughout the years the name "Mautarde" has had several spellings and today it is written "Muttart".

Muttart Family Tree

Balthazar Mautarde (1738 – 1784) and Marguerite Holleri had 11 children. He was born in Alsace, now part of France. They lived in Tryon.

Their eighth child, George Mortart (1776 – 1844) and Elizabeth Morley had 10 children. They lived in Tryon, then moved to Cape Traverse.

Their ninth child, Lewis Mortart (1814 – 1903) and Susan Jane Allen had 14 children. Lewis was an ice boat captain. They lived in Cape Traverse.

Robert L. Muttart married Mary "Minnie" Clark.

Lewis (Louis) Harrison Muttart married Annie Bagnall.

Elmer Bagnall Muttart (1918 – 1941) grew up in Cape Traverse, died and is buried in The Netherlands.

Pieter's Project

Pieter Valkenburg, Branch Service Officer for Borden-Carleton Legion Branch #10, has undertaken a project to research the names on the cenotaph outside the Borden-Carleton Legion.



Borden-Carleton Branch Service Officer Pieter Valkenburg. (Credit: Daria Valkenburg)

In an article published in the County Line Courier newspaper (April 5, 2017 p.9) Valkenburg notes, "This is an opportunity to learn about the service and sacrifices made. It can be difficult to remember who these brave people were after so many years. The objective is to document all the persons mentioned on the cenotaph for an historical record, and to make a Wall of Remembrance in the Legion with their photos."

Of special interest to Valkenburg is the name "Elmer Bagnall Muttart". Recently, Valkenburg discovered that Muttart died a hero in 1941, while flying a bombing mission to Germany over The Netherlands. He flew his burning Halifax bomber away from a local village, saving the lives of many villagers while losing his own life in the crash. Muttart was buried with military honours by the Germans in a local cemetery in Harlingen, The Netherlands.

Valkenburg contacted the Missing Airmen Memorial Foundation in The Netherlands and asked if they would be interested in erecting a memorial plaque at the crash site. He also contacted a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in The Netherlands for their support. So, in partnership with the TAHS, a plaque honouring the Halifax plane, the crew and their story will be erected at the crash site. The ceremony to unveil the plaque is planned for October 2018. Any donations will be accepted gratefully. Please make out cheques to

TAHS, specifying that your donation is for the Muttart Memorial Fund, who will issue a receipt then forward the monies to the Elmer Muttart Memorial Fund. Thank you.

To Every Name, a Face and a Story

Valkenburg still needs help in order to put a face and story to every name. "People have been generous with sharing photos and letters for a few names, and contacting family members outside P.E.I., but not for every name on the Cenotaph. If you recognize any of the names on the Cenotaph and have photos, letters, diaries, or stories you are willing to share, please email him at: dariadv@yahoo.ca or Jack Sorensen, TAHS president at: jacksorensen@pei.sympatico.ca.



*Cenotaph at Borden-Carleton Legion Branch No. 10
photo Daria Valkenburg*

Names listed on the Borden Cenotaph

WWI

Patrick Raymond Arsenault
Kenneth John Bell
Charles Benjamin Buxton
James Ambrose Cairns
James Cairns
James Lymon Cameron
Leigh Hunt Cameron
George Albert Campbell
William G. Campbell
Vincent Carr
Arthur Leigh Collett
W. Basil Cormier
Patrick Philip Deighan (Deegan)
Joseph Arthur DesRoches
James Graham Farrow
Percy Earl Farrow (Farrar)
Ellis M. Hooper
John Goodwill Howatt
Charles H. Lowther
Bruce Sutherland MacKay
Arthur Clinton Robinson
Harry Robinson
Henry Warburton Stewart

John Lyman Wood

WWII

James Arthur Affleck
Albert Eugene Arsenault
F. Arsenault
Frank Lewis Arsenault
Leonard Stephen Avery
George Ashley Bartlett
Austin Harry Boulter
Harrison William Craig
George Alfred Dunn
John Daniel Ferguson
Everett Samuel Francis
Ernest Ramey Gallant
Singleton Charles Jeffrey (Jeffery)
Harold Lloyd Lefurgey
Elmer Allister Mabey
Elmer Bagnall Muttart
Joseph Charles McIvor
George Martin McMahon
Ernest Murray Norton
George Preston Smith
William Douglas Sherren
Arnold Dudley Taylor
William Ness (1955)

Post WWII

William Ness

“Remembering Edward Sharkey” - A Canada 150 Exhibit

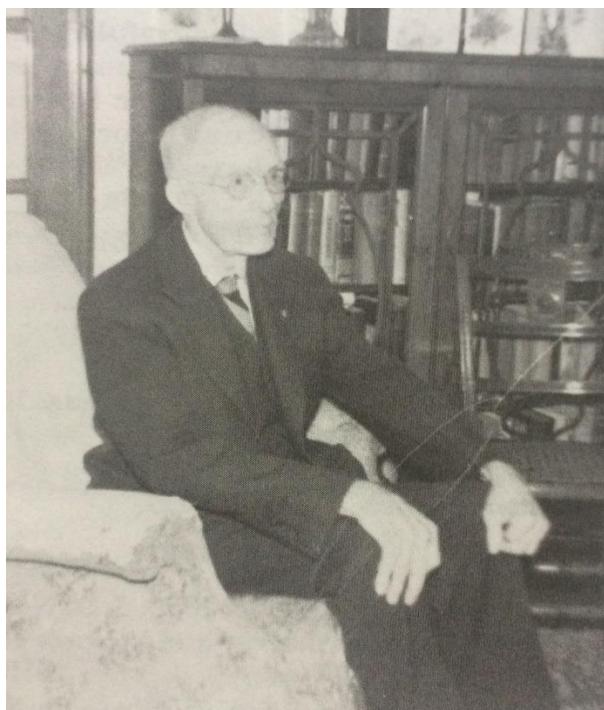
As part of the Canada 150 celebrations this year, Tryon & Area Historical Society Inc. is featuring an exhibit commemorating the life of Edward Sharkey, 1867-1970, of North Tryon.

Mr. Sharkey was born in the year of Confederation and lived to see the Centennial in 1967. He was a carpenter by trade and worked at Ives' Mill and Chisholm's Furniture Factory in North Tryon, and helped build the Tryon Methodist Church (now South Shore United Church and a National Historic Site). He also had a connection with the Silver Fox industry, installing alarm systems at different ranches. In his retirement

years, Mr. Sharkey worked in his own shop building and repairing most anything in the carpentry line.

The exhibit is part of a province-wide “What Does Canada 150 Mean to You?” project being conducted through the Community Museums Association of PEI and Department of Canadian Heritage, and will be on display for the rest of the summer at the Tryon Museum. On Friday, August 11, from 2:00 – 6:00 pm there will also be a special open house and symposium about the exhibit at the Museum.

Everyone is invited to visit the exhibit, and we are encouraging people to submit stories, pictures, and any information related to Mr. Sharkey and his family. The Tryon Museum is located at #47 Route 10, Tryon, and is open Monday to Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Voluntary donations to the Tryon Area Historical Society Inc. are gratefully accepted. For more information please call 902-658-2009, or info@museumspei.ca, 902-892-8837.



Edward Sharkey, “Remember Yesterday – A History of North Tryon, PEI, 1769-1992”, the Sheldon Dixon Collection.

Calling all Hummingbird Enthusiasts



Join us July 19th at 1 pm for a Hummingbird Walk and Talk!”

Guaranteed to be an exquisite time. We have Cindy Cartwright of Hummingbirds Canada coming to give us a hand with our Ruby-throated Hummingbird project. There will be a PowerPoint presentation on these majestic little flyers, refreshments, and we will also go for a walk in one of our beautiful properties along community-maintained walking trails!

Topics will focus on the types of fauna which attract Hummingbirds and proper techniques of attracting them to your feeders. The presentation is organized by Hailey Blacquiere who is working for Island Nature Trust as the education and outreach coordinator.

We will hold the presentation in the Tryon Museum! (47, Rte 10, Tryon PE) and the walk will begin shortly after. For more information contact us on Facebook – Island Nature Trust or send us an email – hailey@islandnaturetrust.ca and our office phone is 902-892-7513

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