

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

Members of St. Anne's have been involved in the military of this country in times of war and peace and in honour of their service, we remember them each November 11th or on the Sunday closest to that date. This is not an exhaustive list, and additional information may be forwarded to the church office.

World War I

100 years after the start of the First World War (WW1), we tried to identify and remember those in our community who took part in it. With many of those early families now gone from our community, the "Online Research" option on the Library and Archives Canada website (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>) was used along with the names of those in our parish's past. The Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) records revealed some links to our community. There are no known records that give the names of parishioners at the time of WW1 so the individuals identified and displayed in the parish hall on several Sundays in November 2014 only give us a glimpse into how the Byron and area community played their part in WW1. A binder with all display information is available in the library.

With contributions from members of the Meriam and Wickerson families we learned a bit more about three of our parishioners. Two were wounded while one instructed recruits in the use of firearms. Each came through the war with their own stories and are now resting in St. Anne's cemetery. A summary of their stories follow, along with copies of enlistment records for known parishioners.

Aside from those who enlisted in the military, it is easy to see how area farmers helped out as food production was critical in supporting both civilian and military war efforts. Hugh Trevor Meriam was one of those who was exempt from overseas service due to being a farmer, yet he found time to be a firearms instructor. So many contributed in so many ways.

And for all of them and all they did....We will remember them.

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

Hugh Trevor Meriam

My father Hugh Trevor Meriam, known as Trevor, was born May 31, 1895 at the Meriam family farm at Byron, Ontario. He was the sixth son and ninth child of Wesley and Annie Bella Meriam. He attended Byron Public School and was a member of St. Anne’s Anglican Church. After finishing elementary school he joined his father to work on the family farm.

During World War 1 he was exempt from being called up for active military service due to being a farmer but was recruited as a firearms instructor at Carling Heights, London, Ontario.

He lived all his life at the Meriam family farm which was located on Commissioner's Road West where "Meriam Place" is now. He died November 10, 1973. His grave is in the Meriam family plot in St. Anne's Anglican Church cemetery.

Submitted by Sylvia Meriam Brown



Hugh Trevor Meriam

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

DUPLICATE
1st Depot Battalion, W.O.R. Regiment
Regt. No. 3137679

M. D. _____ Depot Battalion _____

*Byron
4-11-18*

PARTICULARS OF RECRUIT
DRAFTED UNDER MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917

(Class ONE)

1. Surname	M E R I A M
2. Christian name	HUGH TREVOR
3. Present address	Byron, Ontario
4. Military Service Act letter and number	706442 A0
<small>(If man is deserter, i.e., has not registered under Proclamation, this fact should be stated, together with date of apprehension or surrender)</small>	
5. Date of birth	21 st May, 1895
6. Place of birth	Byron, Middlesex Co., Ontario, Canada
<small>(town, township or county and country)</small>	
7. Married, widower or single	Single
8. Religion	Church of England
9. Trade or calling	Farmer
10. Name of next-of-kin	Mr. Wesley Meriam
11. Relationship of next-of-kin	Father
12. Address of next-of-kin	Byron, Ontario
13. Whether at present a member of the Active Militia	No
14. Particulars of previous military or naval service, if any	None
15. Medical Examination under Military Service Act :-	
(a) Place	London, Ontario
(b) Date	23rd Oct. 1917
(c) Category	A 2

DECLARATION OF RECRUIT

I, Hugh Trevor Meriam, do solemnly declare that the above particulars refer to me, and are true.

29th May, 1918 Hugh Trevor Meriam (Signature of Recruit)

DESCRIPTION ON CALLING UP

Apparent age	25	ys.		mths.	Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.
Height	5	ft.	9	ins.	
Chest measurement	fully expanded		38	ins.	
	range of expansion		34	ins.	
Complexion			medium		
Eyes			brown		
Hair			dark		

R.EYE D 20-20 L.EYE D 20-20
HEARING R. normal L. normal

John L. Young Lieut. Colonel
1st Depot Battalion, W.O.R.
Depot Bn. Regt.

Place LONDON, ONT. Date MAY 29 1918

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

Truman Wallace Meriam

Truman Wallace Meriam was born on October 31, 1888 at the Meriam family farm at Byron Ontario. He was the fourth son and seventh child of Wesley and Annie Bella Meriam. He was a member of St. Anne's Anglican church, Byron. He attended Byron Public School and London Collegiate Institute. In the spring of 1916 he signed up in Calgary, with the 89 Battalion of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. Along with many other troops, he travelled by train to Halifax for the voyage to England. He wrote home that as the train crossed Canada many people came to the stations to wish the troops well.

He sailed to England on board the "Olympic"; arrived in Liverpool in early June, was stationed at Otterpool Camp, Westenhanger, England to be trained and wait deployment to the World War 1 battlefields in France. He was a private assigned to the 1st Division, 1st Brigade, 3rd Battalion Machine Gun Section.

He was deployed to France in the fall of 1916. Once he was in France, his letters and postcards home to family were brief and said either "somewhere in France" or "on active service". From military records I obtained from the Archives in Ottawa, I was able to learn more about where Truman served in France. He survived and was uninjured at the Vimy Ridge battle in April, 1917. A post card from the Loos, France area tells of the devastation he saw in that area wreaked by the Germans earlier in the war. Telegrams home to his father Wesley tell of him suffering "gas shell bums in early August 1917. His records show that he was transported back to England to recover at the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, England and was deemed fit to return to the front in September, 1917. Yet another telegram states that Truman suffered a "shrapnel wound" to his back and hip during the battle at Passchendaele in early November 1917. Once again he was sent back to England to recover but after some time was deemed unfit for active service and sent home. His records also show that he suffered a number of lesser maladies that so many soldiers suffered that were caused by the terrible conditions in the trenches. It was amazing to me what detailed medical records were kept. How difficult it must have been to try and care for all the sick and wounded soldiers.



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As well as his parents, Truman had 9 siblings and many other relatives in the Byron area. In one of his letters home, he asks to have his mother send him some of her Christmas fruit cake and to also have his sister Helena Dunn and aunt Alice Ormond (Anne Keams' mother), send cake too. He informed his mother the cost would be about 7 cents a pound. He wrote telling his mother to put the cake in "biscuit tins". He'd also asked for some "russet apples". I have no doubt that the cakes were sent but wonder about the apples.

His early work was as a travelling salesman for H. Mueller MFG. Co. Ltd. It was a plumbing supply company. A notebook of Truman's shows many areas he travelled to including my current home town of Huntsville, Ontario and names of businesses that were his clients. After the war he lived in Toronto. He enjoyed politics and worked in the Conservative Party during the George Drew era. He owned a small acreage in the Byron area across the road from the Meriam family farm and where Warbler Woods is today. He always enjoyed visiting his family in Byron and loved to walk over his land which he still owned at his death.

Truman was a favourite uncle of mine when I was a growing up in Byron. I don't recall him talking much about the war but he walked with a cane and at times spoke of pain in his hip and back due to the shrapnel wound. He died on July 14, 1966. His grave is in the "Meriam" family plot in St. Anne's Church cemetery.

On a Christmas greeting card sent home to his mother and family while he was in France, he wrote: "Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and that you are all together on Christmas Day." Truman.

Submitted by Sylvia Meriam Brown

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

Duplicate
89TH
ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 183285
Folio.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your name? Truman Wallace Meriam
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Byron, Middlesex, Ont.
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Wesley Meriam
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Byron, Middlesex, Ont.
 5. What is the date of your birth? Oct 31st 1888
 6. What is your Trade or Calling? Traveller
 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. 1 yr 1st Hussars London Ont
 3- 7th Fusiliers
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes
 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? Yes
 Truman Wallace Meriam (Signature of Man.)
 K. Barnes (Signature of Witness.)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

Truman Wallace Meriam 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 Nov 16th 1915 Truman Wallace Meriam (Signature of Recruit)
 K. Barnes (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

Truman Wallace Meriam 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 in 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 Nov 16th 1915 Truman Wallace Meriam (Signature of Recruit)
 K. Barnes (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 recited to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Calgary this sixteenth day of November 1915.

J. Stewart Dewart (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.
 W. Masnyth (Approving Officer)

M. F. W. 24.
 50 M.-7-12.
 H. Q. 1712-9-311.

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

Description of Truman Wallace Meriam on Enlistment.

Apparent Age <u>27</u> years <u>—</u> months.		Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease. <small>(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)</small>
<small>(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)</small>		
Height	<u>5</u> ft. <u>10</u> ins.	
Chest <small>measure in ins.</small>	(Girth when fully expanded) <u>40</u> ins.	
	(Range of expansion) <u>3 1/2</u> ins.	
Complexion	<u>Dark</u>	
Eyes	<u>Blue</u>	
Hair	<u>Dark Brown</u>	
Religious denominations.	Church of England <u>X</u>	
	Presbyterian	
	Wesleyan Methodist	
	Baptist or Congregationalist	
	Other Protestants <small>(Denomination to be stated.)</small>	
	Roman Catholic	
Jewish		

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date Nov 16 1915
Place Calgary R. M. Cook
Medical Officer.

*Insert here "fit" or "unfit"

Note.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Truman Wallace Meriam having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

Date Nov. 16 1915 W. S. Smith (Signature of Officer)

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

10
142nd Batt.

TRIPPLICATE

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No. 823146

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio.



QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.
(ANSWERS)

1. What is your surname? Bentley
- 1a. What are your Christian names? William, Friedrich
- 1b. What is your present address? Thorndale, Ont.
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and what Country were you born? London, England
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? William Bentley Bentley
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Albion, Ontario
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? father
5. What is the date of your birth? Jan 21st 1896
6. What is your Trade or Calling? Farm laborer
7. Are you married? No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? Yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the }
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? } Yes

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Wm Friedrich Bentley, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they 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 Dec 7th 1915.
William F Bentley (Signature of Recruit)
W. H. Husey (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Wm Friedrich Bentley, 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 in 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 Dec 7th 1915.
William F Bentley (Signature of Recruit)
W. H. Husey (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 London, Ont. this seventh day of December 1915.

W. H. Husey (Signature of Justice)

M. F. W. 23.
30 M.-11-25.
H. Q. 1172-23-641.

RE-SWORN Oct 25
W. M. H. Husey Lt. Col.
O.C. 142nd Overseas Battalion C.E.F.

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

Clarence Henry Wickerson

Clarence Henry Wickerson was born April 5, 1884 just outside Byron on the family farm (Wickerson Road) enlisted November 29, 1915. He went overseas August 15, 1916, on board RMS Grampian. He was in the Calvary, was wounded at least once. The London Free Press articles noting his wounding follow. He returned to Canada May 19, 1919. He may have spent December 1918 in Cologne (Kohn), Germany. He was the son of Henry and Caroline Wickerson. All are buried in St. Anne’s cemetery.



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without popular youth. His father, Pic. Wickerson has been wounded in action with the cavalry, according to a telegram received by his father, Henry Wickerson, Westminster Township. Lieut. Wickerson went overseas with the Mounted Rifles.

RETURNS TO FIRING LINE.

Lieut. C. H. Wickerson, Wounded About Four Weeks Ago.

Lieut. C. H. Wickerson has returned to the firing line, according to a telegram received by his father, Mr. Henry Wickerson, route No. 4, London. Three days ago Lieut. Wickerson was reported wounded, and subsequent information received in the effect that his wounds were treated about four weeks ago, and that he has since returned into action with the Canadian cavalry. The telegram just received stated that he had been wounded in the hand, and his wound gives the impression that he has suffered the loss of one or more fingers.

Transfers and Appointments.

The appointment of Lt. John Burton Harris, 1st Batt. Canadian C. E. to number transportation battalions, E. C. is approved provisionally. Detachment of these men to 1st Regiment, G. M. R. is approved provisionally. To be lieutenant, Timothy L. H. Deane, G. M. R. via Lt. E. D. H. Boyd, proceeded overseas with draft.

Supernumerary Lt. H. E. Scott, 12th Light Horse, via Lt. F. B. Isher, proceeded overseas with draft. Lt. Clarence Henry Wickerson, First Hussars, via Lt. W. R. Henderson, proceeded overseas with draft. Lt. F. Richardson, Dundas, 8th P.I.D.G., via Lt. T. H. Murray, proceeded overseas with draft. Lt. Andrew Wadon, 1st Hussars, via Lt. W. R. Henderson, proceeded overseas with draft. Lt. Robt. Philip Prich, 1st Dragoon, via Lt. E. H. Smith, proceeded overseas with draft.

WOUNDED.

LONDON.

Mr. C. W. Stephens, 25 Gove St. via W. Rutwick, 2 Cherry street. via A. Wistow, 1129 York street. via Peter V. Lindeman. Lieut. C. H. Wickerson. via Alfred Wistow. R. V. Hall. Lieut. D. T. Turbott.

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

*copy of
2/9/16*

DUPLICATE

ATTESTATION PAPER.
Depot Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles.
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

No. *Lieut*
Folio.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

- (ANSWERS)
1. What is your surname?..... **Wickerson, (Lieut)**
 - 1a. What are your Christian names?..... **Clarence Henry**
 - 1b. What is your present address?..... **R.R.No., 4, London, Ont.**
 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... **Byron, Middlesex, Ont.**
 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... **Caroline Wickerson,**
 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... **R.R.No., 4, London, Ont.**
 - 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?..... **Mother**
 5. What is the date of your birth?..... **April 5th- 1884**
 6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... **Salesman**
 7. Are you married?..... **No**
 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?..... **Yes**
 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... **Yes**
 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..... **7 years 1st Russars.**
If so, state particulars of former service.
 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... **Yes**
 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?..... **Yes**

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, **Clarence Henry Wickerson,** do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they 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..... **Nov. 30,** 191 **5**
C. H. Wickerson (Signature of Applicant) **Officer**
Geo. Gallraith (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, **Clarence Henry Wickerson,** 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 in 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..... **Nov. 30,** 191 **5**
C. H. Wickerson (Signature of Applicant) **Officer**
Geo. Gallraith (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..... **London, Ont.** this..... **30th** day of..... **November**..... 191 **5**
..... (Signature of Justice)

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

Description of Clarence H. Wickerson, on Enlistment.

Apparent Age <u>31</u> years <u>8</u> months. <small>(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)</small>		Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease. <small>(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to this effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)</small>
Height: <u>5</u> ft. <u>8</u> ins.		
Chest measure- ment.	Girth when fully expanded <u>38</u> ins.	
	Range of expansion <u>4</u> ins.	
Complexion <u>Medium</u>		
Eyes <u>Blue</u>		
Hair <u>Lt. Brown</u>		
Religious denominations	Church of England <u>X</u>	
	Presbyterian	
	Methodist	
	Baptist or Congregationalist	
	Roman Catholic	
Jewish		
Other Denominations <small>(Denomination to be stated)</small>		

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and declares that he is not subject to fit of any description.

I consider him fit for the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force.

Date Nov. 30th 1915
Place London, Ont.

[Signature]
Maj. A. M. G.
Medical Officer.

* Insert here "ft." or "incht."

Note.—Should the Medical Officer consider the recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

Clarence H. Wickerson having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

[Signature] (Signature of Officer)
Date 3/12/15 1915
[Signature] for O.C. Depot Coy CMR.

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

World War II Volunteers	
A-K	
Philip Chapman	George Cross
Marjorie Foyston	John French
Ernest Grove	Dennis Holland
Bruce Johnston	Barbara Kains
Nora Kains	Milton Keam
L-R	
Grace Lamb	Harry Lamb
Jean Lamb	John Lamb
Thomas Lamb	Edward McFadyen
Walter Middleton	Charles Minzen
Lloyd Osborne	
S-Z	
Harriet Sabine	William Shearme
Daniel Ward	Gordon Ward
Reid Waring	Albert Watson
Bartholomew Wells	Cecil Wells
Harold Wickerson	Oscar Wickerson
Richard Winnett	

Military Connections – St. Anne’s Anglican Church (Byron)

