



## Promoting, Preserving, Publishing Our Heritage



Adjacent the Wapiti River, an old stock corral south of Elmworth with full autumn colour.

### Upcoming Fall Events – see details on [PCHS Forum](#) | [Facebook](#)

Additional podcasts have been added for your enjoyment! Our first six video podcasts with reviews of the historic major fires from our region, the organizing of area Royal Canadian Legions, an appreciation of the Grande Prairie Museum, the 2024 Heritage Fair, Mounties as community builders, and local hockey greats, are all now uploaded. Bookmark our YouTube channel and enjoy it at [The Peace Country Historical Society Podcast - YouTube](#)

**2025 Events will be emailed to members and posted on [the PCHS Forum](#) | [Facebook](#) page.**

November 8<sup>th</sup> PCHS Remembrance-Themed Event, GP Museum at 1:30 PM

December Christmas Event, with Generations Readers Theatre. Day TBA

**More details will be added as planning and participants are confirmed.**

## Peace Country Historical Society

**Vision:** To encourage the appreciation of the history of the Peace Country

**Mandate:** The mandated area of the Peace Country Historical Society is the Northwest region of Alberta

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Grande Prairie  
Janet Peterson--Event Greeter/Sign-in

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## What We Can Offer

A chance to help set the direction for our Peace Country Chapter at membership meetings or other communication means.

A chance to learn about Peace Country history during presentations and tours, through Facebook, the Newsletter, the Website, and at membership meetings.

A chance to meet other people who enjoy history.

A chance to contribute as a volunteer in various projects that we carry out.

A chance to advocate for the preservation of the history of our area.

Qualify to submit applications for HSA grants to fund special projects.

We hope you choose to join, or continue with our Society.

## *Editor's Message*

### Remembrance and Memory

This issue of our newsletter is centered on the importance of remembrance in our lives. The solemn ceremonies that commemorate the sacrifice and service of the armed forces through past wars will always be central to that observance, but if we widen our view, we see the individual members who served, and their impact on the families they came from. For the fortunate ones able to return and rejoin civilian life, they built their lives and families who now carry those memories forward to share with us. Our November 8<sup>th</sup> event at the Grande Prairie Museum recalls Danny Rycroft's war service, and this newsletter will add others to commemorate their service.

Many of us were fortunate in our early lives to have spent some time with those who had served on our behalf. Sadly, we are now left to regret the loss of the many stories that we never sought, or the life lessons older generations experienced but were then left unsaid and unwritten. Meanwhile, our younger generations are hungry for role models for their path forward, and also wanting to make a meaningful contributions to their communities. It's time to share.

If there's a subject for the rest of us that needs attention, it is the gathering of notable or family stories of interest that shed light on accomplishments or struggles of those born to our area, or who may have chosen it for their new home.

It may take some years for the material to become a "historically" useful tale of interest, but it can still be of immediate or lasting value to share with relatives or friends in the near term. For those who prefer talking to writing, we are also considering a workshop on how to conduct an oral history interview to help prepare more of our members for collecting, sharing, and preserving knowledge from generation to generation.

So, I would invite you to do a small bit to save a story that is memorable for you, invite a friend to join in supporting the preservation of local or regional history, or just attend an event if the weather and your mobility allows.

*Ron Thoreson, Editor*



# THE SPRY DYNASTY

**Walter Spry** was born in Leskard, Ontario on January 2, 1892 to John & Mary Spry. The Carveth family who were relatives of the Sprys had decided to venture to Northern Alberta in 1911 to take advantage of the opportunities for land ownership by means of homestead applications. The Carveths returned to Ontario for supplies and then left for the Alberta homestead. Walter also thought it would be a great opportunity and joined the group. They arrived in 1914 and Walter immediately filed an application on NE 1-74-5-W6 after which he secured employment with The Argonaut Mill. In his absence, Ernie Kirstien constructed a log house with a sod roof for Walter.

On July 21, 1915 Walter answered the call of duty and enlisted with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force 66<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Edmonton, Regimental No. 101068. Private Walter Spry sailed aboard the S.S. Metaganian and arrived in England on September 21, 1915. He was hospitalized with influenza in November 1915 following which he was taken on strength with the 31st Battalion and sent to the field where he was appointed as Lance Corporal. Unfortunately, he suffered a severe gun-shot wound to his left thigh on July 12, 1916 at the "Bluff" sector near "Spoilbank", Battle of Ypres. After two months of hospitalization at the 5<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in England, he was fully healed and returned to France on February 15, 1917. November of 1917 saw him promoted to Corporal. Also in November, Walter saw action at **Passchendaele** where he suffered a gun-shot wound to the right leg that shattered the bones with the anterior portion of leg being destroyed. Amputation was deemed necessary four inches below the knee. The bullet also entered and exited the left leg. He was evacuated to the No. 14 British General Hospital in Boulogne and then to the 5<sup>th</sup> London General Hospital. Walter was invalided to Canada on March 11, 1918 where he was fitted for an artificial leg at the Davisville Military Hospital. He was discharged on August 14, 1918 at Toronto.



Canadians have a proud history of bravely serving in the cause of peace and freedom over the years. A name from Canada's First World War military heritage that still stirs emotions is "Passchendaele." On a muddy battlefield in Northwest Belgium, Canadians overcame almost unimaginable hardships to win an impressive victory in the fall of 1917.

Walter had a remarkable recovery and easily adjusted to his artificial leg; however he did suffer from "phantom pains" in the missing portion of his leg and foot. The leg portion was fitted with hinges so that he could bend the knee and foot. On September 6, 1918, he married Rosetta Keeber who was the daughter of friends of the family. The union took place in Toronto following which Walter returned to the homestead to ready the cabin for his bride who would arrive in the spring. In his absence, the cabin had been used for grain storage as well as having the door enlarged to retro fit the fanning mill. Rosetta decided to arrive early to surprise her new husband and arrived at Christmas time. Walter and Rose's family grew to five children; two sons, Walter Jr. and Jack and three daughters, Violet, Olive and Edith. Walter was highly industrious and increased his land base to five quarters of land. He had a large farm-house built in 1928 and later in 1934, a large barn was constructed.

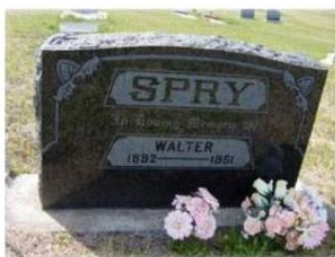




Walter was also very active in the community; he was the Municipal Councilor for a period of time, responsible for the implementation of the Masonic Lodge, member of the Royal Arch and the Old-timers' Association.

In September 1951, Walter suffered a heart attack and spent time in the hospital. Once released and back home, he suffered another heart attack and passed away on October 26, 1951. Walter was buried in the Emerson Trail Cemetery. The following year, Rosetta moved to Sexsmith where she was instrumental in organizing the Sexsmith Golden Age Cub. She was also a life member of the Eastern Star as well as a life member for the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion.

**Corporal Walter Spry** was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



**Walter Louis George Spry**, who went by Wally, was born on October 28, 1920 in Buffalo Lake. He attended Mount Star School following which; he worked with his father, Walter Sr. on the farm. Wally and his brother Jack played hockey in Sexsmith and played baseball for Sexsmith and North Kleskun teams. In 1936, he attended Vermilion Agricultural School for two years. In June of 1941, Walter married Betty Jackson from Mayerthorpe and subsequently obtained NE 6-74-4-6 from his father.



Wally enlisted for service in the Canadian Active Service Force on January 22, 1942 in Grande Prairie. Unfortunately, it was discovered that Wally had a heart arrhythmia and therefore could not meet the necessary physical requirements.

They raised a family of two boys, Doug and Keith and one daughter, Donna. When Wally and Betty retired from farming, they moved to Grande Prairie. Betty passed away in 2000, Wally in 1999. Both are buried at the Emerson Trail Cemetery near Sexsmith.



## John (Jack) Ernest Spry

was born at home on the family farm on January 14, 1923 to Walter and Rosetta Spry. He was the second oldest with an older brother Walter, and three sisters, Violet, Olive & Edith. Being very athletic, Jack as well as his brother Wally played hockey in Sexsmith and played baseball for the Sexsmith and North Kleskun teams.

Jack served in the Royal Canadian Air Force for five years during World War II. He was officially certified as a wireless operator in 1941 following which, he was promoted to Sergeant and became a certified Wireless Air-Gunner in 1942 and later that same year, a S.E. Coastal Operator. Jack was listed as "above average" in his training schedule and one instructor wrote, "capable man who shall go far".

In 1943, Jack was stationed near India. On June 8<sup>th</sup> while out on anti-sub patrol in a FP-175 with pilot Sgt. Gallagher, they sighted a lifeboat with fourteen survivors of the S.S. Montanan. While attempting to land, the hull was damaged in a heavy swell. They scrambled into a rubber dinghy and were in dire need of being rescued themselves. The lifeboat they had been sent to rescue came to their aid. Finally the group was sighted by a C.C.3 on June 9<sup>th</sup> and shortly thereafter, emergency rations were dropped by a Catalina Y & G. After two days and seven hours adrift, everyone made landfall at Masirah. **Masirah Island** is an island off the east coast of



mainland Oman in the Arabian Sea and the largest island of the country. During WW II, The British paid the Sultan of Muscat a stipend of £18,000 per annum to afford British forces with 'necessary facilities', which included Masirah.





On December 27, 1943, FP-201 was flying a convoy escort when an enemy sub was sunk by HMIS Berar. A summary was radioed in for which the entire crew was congratulated by N.O.T.C. Cochlin.

After the war Jack returned to the farm in the Sexsmith area where he purchased 320 acres of land. He was a



very quiet man who appeared to be trying to

cope with the unimaginable horrors that only someone who experienced and survived a World War would know. He passed away on August 14, 1980 at his home at age 57 and was buried at the Emerson Trail Cemetery. Although Jack never married or had children, he had many family members in the area with whom he was always in contact with.

**Sergeant John Spry** Regimental # R93559 was awarded the 39-45 Star, Africa Star, Burma Star, Defense Medal, Canadian Volunteer Service Medal with Clasp and the 39-45 War Medal. Sergeant John Spry flew 68 sorties in total.

**Louis Roy Spry** was born on January 15, 1898 to Mary and John Spry at Leskard, Ontario. He listed his occupation as "farmer" on his attestation document that was signed on October 30, 1916 at Toronto with the 204<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Louis was admitted to Exhibition Camp Hospital on February 15, 1917 with tonsillitis from which he was totally cured. Louis arrived in England on April 7, 1917 aboard the S.S. Saxonia where he was subsequently transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Reserve Battalion at Otterpool. Shortly thereafter, he was transferred to the 75<sup>th</sup> Battalion and sent to France on May 17, 1917. As you will often see, Louis assigned \$20 of his monthly pay to his mother, Mary Spry. While in Paris, France, Louis was granted 10 days leave and would have explored the many sites located in the city.

On September 2, 1918, the Canadian Corps, under the Command of Lieutenant-General Arthur Curie, launched an assault that broke through the defensive positions. The operation known as the "Canadian Breakthrough at Queant" was a significant victory for the Allies and marked a turning point in the Hundred Day Campaign. The assault was part of a larger offensive aimed at outflanking the German Hindenburg Line forcing the German army to retreat. The Canadian Corps' success on September 2, 1918 was a testament to their bravery and the effectiveness of their tactics during the First World War although it came at an extreme cost – 11,000 Canadian casualties of which Private Louis Spry was one. He was only 20 years old & was buried at the Dury Cemetery, France. **Private Louis Spry**, Regimental # 238179 received the British War Medal & the Victory Medal. His mother, Mary Spry received the Memorial Cross.





Private Louis Spry is commemorated on his parents' headstone in the Bowmanville Cemetery, Durham Municipality, ON.

In August 1918, Dury was behind the German defense system known as the Drocourt-Queanmt line, but on September 2<sup>nd</sup> this line was broken by the Canadians. The Dury village and the hill were captured. The cemetery was begun by Canadian units on September 5, 1918 and closed sixteen days later. There were 335 WWI casualties in the cemetery; 12 of which were unidentified.

## REFERENCES

Doug Spry interview

Doug Spry documentation

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Veterans Affairs

Wikipedia

Find a Grave

WWI Service Files

Library & Archives Canada

Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Everyone Remembered.org

## In Memory Of Private LOUIS ROY SPRY

Service Number: 238179

75th Bn., Canadian Infantry who died on 02 September 1918 Age 20

Son of John and Mary A. Spry, of 212, High Park Avenue, Toronto. Born at Leskard, Ontario.

SAFE WHERE HE NEEDS NO STAR TO GUIDE WHERE NO CLOUD THY GLORY HIDE

Remembered with Honour

DURY MILL BRITISH CEMETERY

II. B. 39.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

*Never in the field of human conflict was so much  
owed by so many to so few" – Winston Churchill*



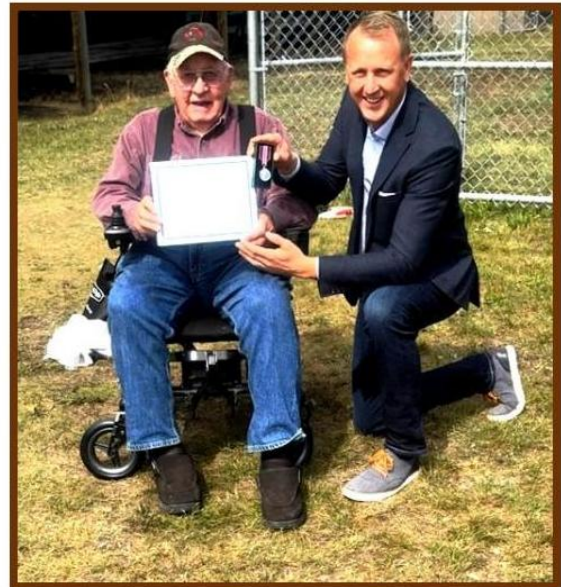
*Written by Wanda Zenner – October 2025  
Photos by Doug Spry & Wanda Zenner*



## REMARKABLE DEBOLT HISTORIAN FRANCES (FRAN) MOORE AWARDED KING CHARLES III MEDAL



On August 16, 2025 an amazing lady was recognized for her infinite contributions in conserving the history of the area. One of the highlights of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DeBolt and District Pioneer Museum Society was the presentation of the King Charles III Medal by MP Chris Warkentin. As Fran has been ill, her husband Marv accepted the medal on her behalf. Chris' speech emphasized the importance of recognizing Fran's accomplishments and how blessed he felt to have known her all his life. Marv's heart-felt response was particularly fitting and emotionally charged.



Fran was born on her grandfather's homestead in Valleyview, Alberta to parents Eunice and Graham Bodeker. She grew up on a farm southwest of the town and attended Smoky Valley, Calais and Sun Valley Schools. Fran also attended St. Joseph's



Catholic School in Grande Prairie while staying at Saint Joseph's Academy. Grade 12 was completed while staying with her grandparents in Nanaimo, BC. In 1957, she graduated from St. Joseph's Business College in GP. Soon thereafter, she found employment as a bookkeeper for a service station in Valleyview where she met her future husband Marv. A heart-warming story as recited by Marv was that *he was going to have to reprimand Fran for being late to work when she suddenly came over and sat on his knee!!* And the rest is history!

Marv and Fran were married February 20, 1959 in Valleyview and lived in DeBolt where they built and ran the Esso Service Station. They had three children; Kerry, Lonny and Bernice. As well as farming, Marv initiated a Massey Ferguson franchise called Marv's Farm Service. Marv soon became involved in politics and was elected as the MLA in 1971. As funding was unavailable for a Constituency Office or a secretary, Fran served as secretary to Marv and at the same time raised their children. With a keen interest in giving back to the community, Fran joined numerous societies and committees as a volunteer. She also spearheaded countless events and created committees where needed.



Fran Moore  
King Charles III Medal

Fran battled cancer in 1976; however by the early 1980s, she became aware of a support program called CanSurmount. She soon became a "CanSurmount Trainer" for the Peace District and over the next decade, Fran held one or two workshops in the Peace District each year to support cancer patients and families. Fran also served as the Provincial Coordinator for said program.

One of Fran's passions was the development of the DeBolt and District Pioneer Museum Society. Acting as Curator of the museum when it was first incorporated in 1975, she was then able to apply for grants from the Alberta Museum Association to hire a part-time staff member for two days a week by 2009. It was also at that time that Fran applied to have DeBolt's Museum recognized as a Museum under the Alberta Museum Association. Before that it was run by Fran and other volunteers as well as a summer student. It was through her work with the Museum that Fran became Editor of the following books: Edson to Grande Prairie Trail; Across the Smoky; Bridges to the Past; Edson Trail Centennial Celebrations; DeBolt Country Club & Agricultural Society.

Fran's efforts forged a path beyond her geographical area. A few of the other organizations/groups that benefitted from Fran's involvement are the Canadian Cancer Society, the Brush Bunnies Art Club, DeBolt U.C.W., Grande Prairie Genealogy Society, DeBolt & District Agricultural Society, Dunvegan Advisory Committee, Edson Trail Centennial and as co-creator along with Alice Fortier of The Spirit of the Peace. It was through Fran's dedication and leadership that the Spirit of the Peace Museums Network began in 1989. This organization brings together all of the museums and archives in the Peace District of both Alberta and BC four times a year. Fran chaired the organization for over 25 years and spearheaded many project such as the film, "*Discover the Spirit of the Peace*" and the book, "*A Sense of the Peace*". All in an effort to encourage museums in the area to support one another. She was also on the executive of the Alberta Museums Association, the Peace Country Historical Society and lobbied for the creation of the South Peace Regional Archives in 2000.



Fran & Marv Moore & daughter Bernice Gerwatoski  
July 2025

Marv is currently a resident of Emerald Gardens in Grande Prairie and Fran is receiving care at the Prairie Lake Seniors Community.

Fran and Marv are well-known for their community service not only for DeBolt and surrounding areas but also for the entire Peace District - a service that is fundamental to the growth and sustainability of small communities.

Fran Moore, Wanda Zenner & Henry Morgan looking for remnants of the Edson Trail south of the Kleskun Hill Museum and campground.



A truly great  
Volunteer  
is hard to find  
difficult to part with and  
impossible to forget!



Fran Moore  
King Charles III Medal

### KING CHARLES III MEDAL

*The medal program was first announced just before the Coronation, on May 3, 2023, by the Prime Minister. The design of the medal and the details of the program were announced by Rideau Hall on May 6, 2024, the first anniversary of the Coronation. The medal, designed by Cathy Bursey-Sabourin, is struck in nickel-silver and lacquered to prevent tarnishing. It is manufactured by the Royal Canadian Mint. On the obverse, a crowned and robed effigy of His Majesty the King of Canada, facing right, circumscribed with the inscriptions "CHARLES III DEI GRATIA REX" and "CANADA". On the reverse, the 13 shapes allude to Canada's provinces and territories, and their circular arrangement conveys the idea of inclusion for all Canadians. Over this background appears the Canadian Royal Cypher in the center, the date of the Coronation, 6.V.2023, on the left and the words "VIVAT REX" meaning Long Live The King, on the right. This ribbon is identical to the British Coronation Medal ribbon and is inspired by the King Edward VII's Coronation Medal ribbon from 1902, which was the first Coronation Medal suspended from a ribbon.*

Fran received the prestigious award; "The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers" in 2018.

The medal recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the Country in a wide range of fields and pays tribute to the dedication and commitment of volunteers.

**Reference:**  
Bernice Gerwatoski (daughter)  
South Peace Regional Archives  
Mary Nutting correspondence

Written by Wanda Zenner August 2025  
Pictures by Bernice Gerwatoski,  
Wanda Zenner, Carrie Moore



Fran had a special place in her back yard in DeBolt that she loved to spend time in. This photo was taken in September 2024 during her last summer at home.

#### **APPRECIATION** by Fran Moore

If not for grapes, there would be no wine  
If not for the clouds, we'd not see sun shine  
If not for disease, who'd know being well  
If not for dying, of life who could tell.  
If not for hard work, there would be no pay  
If not for time spent, there would be no better day  
If not for discipline, where would we get wisdom?  
If not for restraint, we wouldn't know freedom  
Out of the cruelty, comes unexpected kindness  
We develop appreciation, not total blindness.



## Pioneer Days at the South Peace Centennial Museum



The year was 1967 when Ted and Thelma McLean of the Beaverlodge area, along with a group of neighbours and friends, decided to hold an old machine demonstration event during Expo-67, Canada's centennial celebration. Ted had a love for steam engines and couldn't wait to show off the new-to-him 1912 Case steam tractor that he and many friends and neighbours had worked hard to restore and get running. Some members brought old tractors, some brought saw mills and planers, and many came to watch.



This celebration was held at the McLean farm, and it was so successful that they decided to run an annual event under the South Peace Centennial Museum Association name. 'Pioneer Day' was born! Over the years, the event outgrew the farm, and the association looked to expand to another location. They bought the current 40 acres just 2 km northwest of Beaverlodge and moved two buildings and all accumulated machinery over in June of 1974.

Pioneer Day grew to include more events and machines and attractions every year. Soon, it became so popular that Pioneer Day became Pioneer Days! In its prime, Pioneer Days was experienced by upwards of 10 000 people in a single weekend. Spectators would arrive days early just to watch the event come together.





To this day, Pioneer Days runs the third weekend of July and brings people from all over Western Canada to experience the way of life for pioneers in the Peace Country. The day starts off at 8:00AM on both Saturday and Sunday with a delicious, homemade breakfast. After that, there is so much to see and do, most people don't get to it all the first time they experience the Pioneer Days weekend. From the old fashioned kids' carnival games and wagon rides to the threshing machine and shingle making demonstrations, there really is something for everyone in the family to take in and enjoy. Take a stroll through the 15+ pioneer staged buildings, learn the lost art of how a steam engine works, get hands-on experience cutting lumber in the saw mill. Just when you thought you couldn't possibly fit any more into your day, listen for that final steam salute at the end of the day when the tractors are put to bed, and come back again for the next event. We hope to see you at the next one!

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**Leo Shirey Dawson** passed away at the age of 97 in January, 2025, and in the spirit of remembrance, **Martha Keeling Dawson** provided that wider view of the service contributions of her forbearers. Though the account starts in England it is here thanks to Martha and Leo's deep involvement in our region's development. His obituary is at <https://bcfh.ca/obituaries/leo-shirey-dawson/>

Leo had many early teaching venues, but like so many of the families who arrived in the Peace, Martha and Leo "settled" and became long-time residents. Both had teaching careers, and in 1969 Leo had taken a position with the Grande Prairie Regional College. When he "retired" to farming, he was active on the Kleskun Lake Grazing Reserve board, so it's not far away from a Spry or a Rycroft.

The story of three generations of the Round family included here and their happy return from their war service are a fine closing to our PCHS Fall Newsletter. Sincere thanks to all of our contributors.

## A TRIBUTE TO GRANNY ROUND

by Betty Keeling

*They also serve who only stand and wait,  
wrote John Milton.*

If this is true, my mother served in three wars.



*Granny Round with her  
first-born son, Sam*

In October 1899, in Clee Hill, Shropshire, England, as a young bride with a three month old son, she saw her husband Jim off to South Africa to fight the Boers.

On February 22, 1917, now living in Canada, that three month old son named Sam was six months short of being 18. He pleaded with her to sign a release allowing him to join the army. She did and saw him off to fight the Kaiser in Europe.

On August 12, 1917, while Sam was overseas, she gave birth to her seventh and last child, a son named Raymond. Fondly known as Buzz all his life.

Early 1941, Buzz joined the R.C.A.F. and my mother waved him Good Bye on September 23, 1941, as he left to fight Hitler in Europe.

*Three wars and three waits.*

Born Martha Boddison on February 1, 1877, she was the sixth in a family of seven girls. Her father Joe was a miner in Clee Hill. The company that owned the mine also owned the pub where Joe stopped each night when coming off his shift for a short one to quench his dry throat. The company also owned the store where he shopped to buy a bit of cheese or meat for the family supper as well as the house they lived in.

Life was hard and Joe's wife now pregnant again died from overwork, leaving him with seven children, Martha was eleven at the time.

The children had to be separated and were taken in by various relatives and neighbours.

Martha was given a home by a Mrs. Burns who had a market garden. This was the end of her much loved schooling.

Mrs. Burns was never unkind to Martha but she has been taken in to be helpful.

Rising early in the morning, she cleaned the grates, set a fresh fire, put the kettle on for tea. In the garden she weeded, hoed and picked vegetables for the Saturday market.

In season she would pick wild mushrooms, which she peeled and stemmed, making them ready for sale. She made sauce out of the peelings and stems.



Life went on for the next ten years, not always easy and not always hard. Her several sisters lived not far away and she enjoyed their fellowship.

In February 1889, a new policeman came to Clee Hill. Mrs. Burns and Martha peaked through the front room window curtains when they heard his footsteps. Blond, blue eyed Jim Round was over six feet tall and patrolled the streets with a military bearing.

"He's much too tall for you, Martha", remarked Mrs. Burns.

But that was not true. Martha and Jim were married September 12, 1889 in Clee Hill.



*Signaller Corporal James Round with the British Imperial Army in India.*

James Round was born on August 5, 1869 in Ludlow, Shropshire, England.

An adventurous and energetic young man, he welcomed action in the Imperial Army when called up to serve.

Among his 13 year army career he spent four peace-keeping years in India and three years in Hong Kong.

Upon his discharge from the army after the Hong Kong years, he returned to civilian life and joined the police force in Clee Hill.

He met and married Martha and they set up housekeeping in a happy little home.

President Paul Kruger of the Republic of South Africa upset their idyllic life.

The president refused to give political rights to the non-Dutch population which was quite large in that mining area of South Africa.

The British High Commissioner, Viscount Milner, and Joseph Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary took an aggressive attitude to this refusal, causing a crisis. So on October 11, 1899, The Boer War begun.

An underlying cause of the war was the location of the largest gold mines in the world in the Transvaal, just beyond direct British control. This was at a time when the world's monetary systems, certainly the British, were increasingly dependent upon gold.

Jim once more answered the call to serve his country. Tactics in the Boer War still followed those used at Waterloo. Line after line of men were ordered to "charge" which they did with bayonets at ready. Jim once reminisced about his luck during these skirmishes as comrades each side of him would be shot down during the charge.

Martha and their three month old son were left to wait at home.

She said a lot of prayers, wrote a lot of letters, baked a lot of fruit cake well laced with rum, and organized her sisters to knit a lot of scarves, mitts and helmets.

(Many years later, my father Jim, while watching me knit, recalled how he unravelled the scarves, and used the wool to knit quite primitive socks, which they needed badly).

Jim returned safely from the war and the couple begat four more children before emigrating to Canada in 1907.

They settled in Muskoka where Jim found work on the expanding C.N.R., and Martha produced two more children, Betty (the author) and Raymond.

With five children at school and two small ones at home, life for Martha was happy if a bit hectic.

A well aimed bullet in Europe ended this peaceful life as Europe was plunged into The Great War, later known as the First World War. It was Kaiser Bill and the Central Power against the Allies.

With his mother's written permission at age 17 1/2, Sam enlisted at Parry Sound and was soon overseas. He became a dispatch rider and saw action in France and Belgium, riding his motorcycle from one action headquarters to another with messages.

Many years later, commenting on the ingenuity of the Germans, he remembered the "dirty trick" they had during the war when they would string piano wire across a road and many of his comrades were decapitated.

Martha prayed for the safe return of her first born son. She wrote letters, baked rum soaked fruit cakes for her monthly parcels to Sam and she knit scarves, mitts and helmets.

As a small child, I remember pining over the chocolate bars (then a great treat) being put in the parcels.

Martha joined the Parry Sound Red Cross and held bandage wrapping and knitting groups in her home, enlisting neighbours and friends.

Her prayers were answered as Sapper Sam Round came home and was discharged in Toronto on April 12, 1918.

The family were living in Nobel at this time. Jim worked as night-



*Sapper Sam Round in World War I.*



watchman and Alice on the switchboard at the ammunition plant. George and Anne had gone to Toronto to find work. When the ammunition plant closed, the entire family moved to Toronto. Here they lived in peace and prosperity for many years.

In the late 30's, Europe was once more engulfed by the rantings of a fanatic.

Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party plunged Europe into World War II.

Now called Granny Round by her seven children, 18 grandchildren and five greatgrandchildren, Martha waved good bye to another loved one.



*FT.M. Corporal R.A. (Buzz) Round in  
World War II.*

Her youngest son, Buzz, joined the R.C.A.F., and sailed for Europe on September 23, 1941, where he was a Radar Technician attached to several squadrons, including the famous Snowy Owl.

While Buzz never served on the continent, the radar positions were targets for the German bombers.

Granny Round prayed daily for his safe return. She wrote weekly letters, gathering news from all the family to send him.

Buzz had married his high school sweetheart, Mary, before going overseas, so Granny Round left the cake baking up to her, and her hands were too arthritic for knitting, so she left that up to her daughters. But she prayed even more fervently.

Buzz returned safely on September 8, 1945, to a happy wife and mother.

John Milton was right. Granny Round served by waiting. She was the veteran of three wars.

At the age of 88 she was carried to her grave by five grandsons, Bill Round, Bud Martus, Ed Barringham, John Keeling, Doug Round and one greatgrandson, Conrad Odegaard, all over six feet tall.

She should have worn three medals on her chest and her coffin should have been flag draped.

Granny Round had served her country well.

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*To commemorate the 35th Wedding Anniversary of  
Martha & Leo Dawson  
August 22, 1994*

# MACLEAN'S WEEKLY

Saturday,  
April 3,  
1943

★

Vol. 33 No. 14

## 1942 PURCHASES TOTAL OVER \$790,000

### Warrior Jim Round Has Warrior Sons

When it comes to wars, Jim Round, our six-foot night caretaker in the New Building, isn't taking a back seat, for he's a warrior father of warrior sons.

Although it isn't in round numbers, the Round military box score is this:



Jim Round

Kong. All told, he was 13 years in the Imperial Army.

In the Great War, his eldest son, Sam, served for three years in France with the Canadians.

In this war, his youngest son, Canadian-born Raymond, is overseas with the R.C.A.F., where, as a radio-technician, he has been promoted to the rank of corporal.

Father of seven children—four sons

and three girls—Mr. Round has been with the Company for 21 years. He has four grandsons and as many granddaughters, and has let it be known that

soon he may become a great-great grandad.



Cpl. Round

Fourteen years ago Mr. Round was badly injured by an automobile on Bloor Street, and since that time he has suffered from complications resulting from a leg fracture. However, this does not deter him from covering his New Building territory with a nocturnal eye just as keen as it was in General Buller's day.

Excerpt from the  
Maclean's Magazine  
Staff News  
Bulletin - April 3, 1943





# GRASSHOPPER PIE



Have you heard of the old saying, “when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade”? It has been recorded that there are approximately 50 species of grasshoppers with only five species being destructive. I am sure all five of the destructive species have descended on my shrub and flower beds; therefore in an attempt to retaliate, I made **“Grasshopper Pie”**.

## INGREDIENTS

- 30 Oreos Cookies, crushed (1 ½ cups)
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted
- ¾ cup milk (or half & half)
- 24 large marshmallows (or one 13-ounce container marshmallow fluff)
- ¼ cup green crème de menthe liqueur
- 2 tablespoons white crème de cacao liqueur
- 1-2 drops green food coloring, optional
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Chocolate shavings or extra cookie crumbs



## INSTRUCTIONS

- Add the cookie crumbs to a large bowl, reserving a few tablespoons for garnish. Pour in the melted butter and mix until evenly moistened. Press the mixture firmly into a 9-inch pie plate, covering the bottom and sides. Freeze the crust while preparing the filling.
- In a medium-large saucepan, warm the milk over medium heat. When it just starts to simmer, add the marshmallows (or marshmallow fluff) and stir until melted. Remove the pot from the heat and set aside to cool to room temperature.
- Add the crème-de-menthe and crème-de-cacao and mix until smooth. If desired, add a couple of drops of green food coloring to enhance the color. Set aside.
- In a separate bowl, whip the heavy cream until stiff peaks form. Then, gently stir the whipped cream into the marshmallow mixture until well combined and fluffy.
- Pour the filling into the chilled crust, smoothing the top until it is flat. Freeze for at least 3 hours (or until firm), then set on the counter for 10 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with chocolate shavings or extra cookie crumbs.

Grasshopper Pie began to surface in the 1950's, coinciding with a rising American culture that celebrated easy-to-make yet exquisite desserts. The post-war era marked a time when kitchens were experimenting with both flavors and presentation. The first recorded recipe appeared in the 1950's in a cocktail recipe book, where it was labeled as a creamy and indulgent dessert version of a Grasshopper Cocktail – an enigmatic drink made with crème-de-menthe and chocolate liqueur.

*Written by Wanda Lerner August 2025*

With luck, the weather will take care of the hopper scourge in Wanda's garden before the next season! Ed.