

Thompson Family TIMELINE

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. James Thompson | m. Margaret Emerich | 1790 |
| 2. Lt. Colonel David Thompson MPP | m. Sally Ann Wilson | 1825 |
| 3. David Thompson MP | m. Elizabeth Stinson | 1858 |
| 4. Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Thorburn Thompson MP
– British War Medal | m. Violet Isabel Burns | 1893 |
| 5. Major Andrew Ruthven Thompson (Drew)
– British War and Victory Medals | m. Lydia M. Milne | 1922 |
| 5. Lieutenant Walter Hepburn Thompson
– British War and Victory Medals | m. Dorothy McGillivray | 1917 |
| 5. Gretchen Margaret Hepburn Thompson | m. Arthur Owen Armstrong | 1919/div 1919 |

Presbyterians

1752

James Thompson born

1790

James marries Margaret Emerick

1793

Lt. Colonel David Thompson MPP born

1812-14

Lt. Colonel David Thompson MPP in the Lincoln Militia, all Thompsons were active members of local militia, believed in duty, citizenship

Fought in several battles in the War of 1812, most notably the battle of Lundy's Lane 1814, starting the tradition of Brock's Rangers

1825

Lt. Colonel David marries Sally Ann Wilson

1830

Lt. Colonel David Thompson obtains property along the Grand River, builds a dam and lock, a grist mill and saw mill around which the village of Indiana grew.

1830

Margaret (Emerick) Thompson dies age 70

1831

James Thompson dies age 79

1836

David Thompson MP born in Wainfleet, grows up in Ruthven

1840

Sally Ann (Wilson) Thompson dies age 37

1845-47

Lt. Colonel David Thompson builds Ruthven Park, family home.

1851

Lt. Colonel David Thompson dies age 58, David Thompson is an orphan at age 15

1858

David Thompson MP marries Elizabeth Stinson

1866-70

David Thompson MP is second in command of the 37th Haldimand Rifles, in the Fenian Raids, fighting against Irish nationalists

1868

Militia Act - levee, men can be called up "for defense purposes".

May 27, 1870

Lieutenant **Colonel** Andrew Thorburn Thompson MP born Seneca Township, raised at Ruthven, became a great writer, poet and orator (speaker)

The night he was born at Cayuga, his father David was in Wainfleet ready to defend against the Fenian Raid

He attended Hamilton High School and Upper Canada College, his verbal talents lead him to be the first lawyer in the family

Colonel opened a law office in Cayuga, his 2 older brothers were country doctors

Colonel has a collection of stuffed birds, books, curios, war implements, WWI artifacts, including a compass from Passchendaele inscribed by the Colonel "worn by Andrew in Passchendaele"

He also had many Native artifacts, including masks and other sacred items, given to him by Native friends and admirers. He subsequently returned them to the Natives.

He helped to establish the Council Bands

Colonel was well-respected by the conservatives, he was highly in demand as a speaker

Writer, actor producer, he would perform political comedies at political fundraisers

He was an investor but because he didn't buy on credit, he didn't lose everything in the great Depression of 1929

1871

Violet Elizabeth Burns born in Toronto, her father was a Dr. Burns, she attended Bishop Strachan high school (city girl) where she won awards for her needlepoint

1886

David Thompson MP dies age 50

1893

Lieutenant **Colonel** Andrew Thorburn Thompson MP marries Violet Burns in Toronto

July 24, 1894

Drew born Toronto, a gentleman, well-liked

July 26, 1896

Walter born Cayuga, artist, feisty, ladies man

1897

Colonel attends Diamond Jubilee in London, England without family

1899

Margaret/Gretchen (Peg) born (Cayuga?), a sweet girl, close to both her parents, she had a thyroid problem which meant a weight problem, low energy, she was fluent in French

They were a storybook family,

Aunt Betsy was the housekeeper and confidant of the Colonel

Main Holt was the groundskeeper

Mabel was the cow, and they had a bull terrier, they liked motoring, tennis

The children would play in the outdoors, often with Native friends

1900 - 1904

Colonel elected to the House of Commons as the Liberal Member of Parliament for Haldimand and Monck, Wilfred Laurier's Liberal government. The family moves to Ottawa. Children spend time with grandparents in Toronto, summers in Ruthven, winters in Ottawa.

1904

Colonel runs again, defeated by 300 votes

1906

Elizabeth (Stinson) Thompson dies age 68

1909

Colonel appointed Commander of the 5th Brigade, planning, budget, liaison with government, Lord Strathcona,

1911

Borden's Conservative Party defeats the Liberals; Sam Hughes in charge of army restructure dismantles local militias

1915

Gretchen attends Home Ec. School MacDonald College in Montreal, drops out when the boys enlist but continues to write cookbooks. Around this time she changes her name to Peggy, which had been her childhood nickname. Her father used to call her Pug.

December 8, 1915

Walter & Drew enlisted in the 114th Canadian Infantry at Cayuga

1916

February 19

A.J. Baxter dies, Colonel enlisted as Commanding Officer of the 114th Canadian Infantry at Cayuga, he prepares to go to war by wrapping up business affairs, leaving everything in Violet's hands, unusual for that time as women had no vote.

Hughes wanted the army reorganized, soldiers would no longer be a part of local militia, they will now be part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force CEF, militias were for home defence. Battalions now had numbers, not names of cities.

75% of recruits were British immigrants. The CEF did not recruit Natives, blacks, Japanese, but Thompson actively recruited Natives, Native races were separated, 4 companies were formed, two were Natives.

Colonel Thompson is an Honorary Chief of the tribes, his Iroquois name being Ahsaregoah, which signifies "the sword." His presence at the head of the battalion naturally did much to arouse the interest and win the confidence of the Indians. This unit organized a recruiting league on the Six Nation reserve, which resulted in the enlistment of two hundred and eighty-seven Six Nation warriors. Many Indians from other reserves also joined this battalion, including a considerable number from the Caughnawaga and St. Regis bands in the province of Quebec, who are also Iroquois and members of the Six Nation Confederacy. As a result of the large number of Indians in this regiment, two entire Indian companies were formed under the command of Indian officers.

The battalion received the name "Brock's Rangers" in recognition of the circumstance that many of its Indian members were descendants of warriors who fought with Brock at the memorable Battle of Queenston Heights. The device of two crossed tomahawks surmounted by an Indian head was chosen as the regimental crest.

March-Sept

Camp Borden, training, 700-1000 in the 114th. It cost the Colonel a lot of money, he had to pay the expenses of his men, officers must buy their own uniforms, money going out, no money coming in. While the battalion was quartered at Camp Borden, a number of the Indian recruits became very restless; and when it was rumoured that it might be necessary for them to remain in Canada all winter, several of them actually deserted. A little later, however, the battalion was ordered to the front; and as soon as this news became known, the Indian deserters reported for duty. They had joined up to fight; not to vegetate in barracks.

October

The colours were presented to the 114th Battalion, by Mrs. Violet Thompson and Miss Gretchen Thompson, wife and daughter of the Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel A. T. Thompson.

The Kings Colour was received by Lt. Walter Thompson, and the Regimental Colour by Lieutenant Milton Martin.

October 30

Colonel, Drew and Walter on train in Moncton, on the way from Camp Borden to Halifax

November 1

Colonel, Drew and Walter set sail from Halifax aboard The SS Caronia

Thursday November 9

Violet and Peggy set sail from Halifax aboard The SS Baltic

November 11

Colonel, Drew and Walter arrive in Liverpool on the boat at midnight

They go to a terrible dirt-floor barracks in London

Colonel finds out that the 114th battalion is being broken up and the men reassigned.

Colonel relieved of his duties as commanding officer, also other officers cut to private, he has no credibility as a soldier as he wasn't in the Boer War, and he is too old (40) to fight in France. He had hoped to incorporate some of the traditional Iroquois style of fighting.

These two things were personal tragedies for the Colonel as he had convinced the mothers of

Haldimand, "I will be there to look after them". He thought he would be leading them in battle, it was horrible news for an honourable man.

"I have to go home and face those mothers," and indeed he was berated when he returned.

"Our crack unit, which had spent upward of a year in getting esprit-de-corps, was busted in less than 5 minutes."

November 24

Peggy and Violet arrive in Folkestone, England

November 1916-May 1917

Drew and Walter are training in W. Sandling, the Colonel has nothing to do, the women are in London, England

1917

January 4

Walter & Drew assigned to 3rd Reserve Battalion

January 14

Colonel assigned to 3rd Reserve Battalion,

March 12

Colonel appointed CO, Central Ontario Regiment Depot, W. Sandling, he becomes very busy

May 12

after 6 months training in W. Sandling, Walter sent to France with 4th Battalion

May 15

after 6 months training in W. Sandling, Drew sent to France with 4th Battalion The brothers are split up and do not see each other again until after the war

"Three weeks were spent in idling at the base." wine, women, song, cards, gambling "night-club life"

June 9

Drew taken on strength-field – orders to join his Battalion in the war zone, all-night journey by crowded rail car - "six occupants in the compartment" arrive "about ten the next morning" - bombing sounds heard were "merely bombing practice at the Divisional School nearby" - still thrilled by the novelty and excitement – his gun is stolen from his pack during the trip.

Next day – put in charge of "a small draft", veterans who had been wounded and patched up. They cheer themselves up by picking on him, the greenhorn, but he wins them over at the estaminet (*a small café*) with cigarettes and vin blanc (*white wine*) "It was a novel way of disciplining men". They travel for a day, first by 'motor lorry' (10k), then by 'shank's mare' (8k). sleep in billets that night.

Next day – by afternoon he reports to the Transport Officer who was in charge.

4th Battalion at Neuville St. Vaast, "D" Company, No. 16 Platoon – they walk single file, each platoon headed by a guide, past Farbus Wood.

June 11

Walter wounded France

June 16

Walter sent to hospital in Manchester, England

June 20

Drew Attached First Field Company, Canadian Engineers

July-November

The Battle of Passchendaele, 3rd Battle of Ypres, was a campaign of the First World War. In a series of operations, Entente armies under British command attacked the Imperial German Army. The battles were fought for control of the ridge and village of Passchendaele (modern Passendale) near the city of Ypres in West Flanders, Belgium.

August 26

Walter sent to Canada, medically unfit

September 10

Drew wounded – left hand, accidental

September 15

Drew admitted to Canadian Field Ambulance

September 20

Drew rejoins unit

October 3

Walter marries Dorothy MacGillivray on furlough in Ottawa

October 13

Drew rejoins 4th Battalion

October 29

Colonel enters London hospital for renal calculus, becomes a poet

November 3

Drew refuses leave

November 5

Drew wounded at Passchendaele, 3rd Battle of Ypres, Belgium, he is hit in 5 places, shot in the arm, the spine is the worst, for 10 days his life hung in the balance, 17 out of 30 lost that night, 13,000 a month were killed at Passchendaele

November 7

Drew admitted to General Hospital Boulogne, France

November 16

Drew sent to Spine Hospital in London, England, he survives but is not expected to walk again, paralysed

Mother Violet and sister Peggy nurse him

Drew meets Lydia, an actress from Eastburne volunteering as a nurse, they fall in love

November

Natives are given the vote, but then it is taken back after the war, didn't get it back until the 1960's
"good enough to fight, but not to vote"

Borden's Conservatives win (fixed) election, start conscription

December

Colonel buys Drew a gramophone for Christmas in the hospital, Colonel turns to comic poetry to blot out the war

1918

Women are given the vote,

April 20, 1918

Walter discharged in Canada

May 16, 1918

Drew Battalion at Kingston (Drew stays in London hospital)

July 24, 1918

Colonel discharged in Canada

August 4, 1918

Colonel, Violet and Peggy return to Canada

September 30, 1918

Colonel demobilized

January 31, 1919

Drew demobilized

1919

Peggy marries Arthur Owen Armstrong
they divorce after only 10 days of marriage

1922

Drew marries Lydia M. Milne in London

April 1923

Drew and Lydia sail to Canada

They live at Ruthven Park for nine months while the Gingerbread House next door is built, then they move in.

They have no children, he used a colostomy bag and walked with a cane with a limp.

He became Usher of the Black Rod in Ottawa

Peggy returns from England, marries and divorces after a few days. She then goes to France where she burns through the Colonel's cash

Walter gets a job in NYC, Drew goes back to Law School



1926

Violet dies age 49

1929

Walter dies age 32 (self-inflicted in his father's office at Ruthven)

April 20, 1939

Colonel dies age 68

May 6, 1961

Drew dies age 67

1967

Peggy dies age 68

1995

Lydia dies age 101





Lt. Col. Thompson was an Honorary Chief of the tribes and his Iroquois name was "Ahsaregoah" which signifies "the sword". Two of the five Companies of the 114th Battalion were members of the Six Nations Confederacy. (1914?)

In recognition of its large Indian make-up, the battalion adopted a crest featuring two crossed tomahawks below the motto, "For King and Country." As well, members of the Six Nations Women's Patriotic League embroidered a 114th flag, which they adorned with Iroquoian symbols.

If you have the opportunity to visit Ottawa be sure and visit the National War Memorial, located at Confederation Square in the heart of downtown Ottawa. All branches of the service engaged in the war are represented. In particular look at the soldier standing just inside the arch beside the cavalryman's horse. Outfitted as an infantryman, he might well represent one of the native soldiers from 114th Haldimand Battalion. (Brock's Rangers)