

New Toronto Historical Society Volume 11 No. 1 - April 2009

Upcoming Events

Union Station(s)

Join us on **April 22, 2009** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM for a presentation by Derek Boles. Derek will present an illustrated talk on the history of Union Station(s) and the future of the most recent version – Version 4.

A Visit from Major General James Murray

Join us on **June 23, 2009** at LAMP, 185 Fifth Street at 7:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Major General James Murray, first Governor General of Canada.

Thomas Jackson, a long time member of the New Toronto Historical Society died on November 28, 2008

Thomas Jackson Overseas A Year Listed Wounded

Mayor and Mrs. William Jackson, 104-12th St., New Toronto were advised this week by the Casualties Officer that their son, Paratrooper Thomas Jackson, 21, was wounded in action on March 25th.

Born in New Toronto, the young soldier was educated at Twentieth St., Seventh St., and Mimico High schools. He later

won his degree from Guelph Agricultural College, and prior to his enlistment three years ago worked on his father's farm in Burnhamthorpe.

The Advertiser, April 13, 1945

Paratrooper Life "Exciting" Says Pte. T. Jackson

Jumped on "D" Day and Across Rhine – Slightly Wounded

Tanned and rugged looking, Pte. Tom Jackson, 22, son of Major William and Mrs. Jackson, 104-12th Street, admits that parachute jumping is exciting but "you get used to it."

During two years service overseas, Tom had 21 jumps, including two in action. "On 'D' Day we were dropped about six hours ahead of the sea-borne troops. The 6th Airborne division formed the left flank of the invading troops. It was our job to knock out guns, take over bridges and delay the enemy. The flak was heavy and they had plenty of artillery."

"We floated down in the darkness and I landed in a swamp. We took a bridge and held it on "D" day. Went right through with the others up to Falaise and were sent back to

England when we reached the Seine.”

He later went into southern Holland with sea-borne infantry and held the Lass River until the Rhine action.

His second jump was on March 24th across the Rhine seven hours ahead of the main army. “It was a daylight jump from 400 feet up. This time I landed in a small tree and went right through to the ground. We could hear the Germans but couldn’t see them in their concealed position. A chap ahead of me and one behind were killed.”

A day later Tom was slightly wounded by a blast from an explosive. “With me was a friend who had his leg blown off. I went right back into the lines.”

“My battalion was the first to link up with the Russians. We met them at Wismar. They were tough, rugged bunch of soldiers many dressed in odds and ends of German uniforms and equipment. Many Asiatic types.”

The young paratrooper enlisted in 1942, underwent training in the United States and was sent overseas in July 1943.

The Advertiser, June 29, 1945.

Thomas Jackson, a prosperous farmer of New Toronto, County York, was born in Yorkshire, England, Oct. 3, 1831, but his adult life has been spent wholly in Canada. His parents, James

and Annie Jackson, natives of the same county, lived and died there, rearing a family of sixteen children, nine of whom died in England. Henry, the eldest son died near Chicago, Illinois, where he and his family lived on a farm. George died in Sydney, Australia, and Joseph died in Melbourne. Of the four still living, Harriet is the wife of Casper Jackson of Sheffield, England, and has two children: Eliza, married a Mr. Jones, of Yorkshire; Charles, a farmer, married a Miss Marshall, of England, has five children, and lives retired in Dixie, Toronto township. Thomas is mentioned below.

Thomas and Charles Jackson were the only members of their father’s family to come to Canada. Thomas attended Thorne College while growing up, and continued to reside in England until he was twenty-five years old, in 1856 embarking on a sailing vessel for New York. On landing, two months later, he come direct to Toronto. His father had been a farmer, and accustomed to that labor the newcomer worked for a couple of years on various farms, but after his marriage, in 1858, he rented the place which is still the family home. He has made farming his lifelong calling, and being both industrious and progressive has met with abundant success.

Mr. Jackson has been twice married. His first wife was Miss Ann Unwin, born in Mansfield, England, daughter of Charles Unwin, who died in

that country. After nearly twenty years of married life she passed away in 1875, leaving no children. The following year Mr. Jackson was united to Miss Fanny Willcock, who was born in Cornwall, England, in November 1838, and who was brought to Toronto the next year by her parents, Abel and Fanny Willcock. Mrs. Jackson was the third child born to them. She was educated in private schools in Toronto. Two children came to this union: William G, born in 1877, was educated in Etobicoke schools; and Mary Ethel, born June 24, 1879, was educated at Parkdale Collegiate School and Toronto College, and is now the wife of Dr. James B. Coleridge, a leading physician of Ingersoll, Ontario.

Mr. Jackson has never sought to take active part in politics, but has always been a loyal supporter of the Reform party. In religious connection he belongs to the Church of England, and has been warden of the Mimico Church, but his wife is a member of the Methodist denomination. Mr. Jackson was practically without means when he arrived in Canada, and his success reflects the greatest credit upon him, stamping him as a man of ability and determination. He holds high standing in the community, where he and his wife have many warm friends.

Commemorative Biographical Record of County of York by JH Beers & Co, Toronto, 1907