

YESTERDAY

News from the Tavistock and District Historical Society

Annual Meeting and Open House

Saturday, March 25, 2006

Theme: *The Lemp Studio Collection*



Open House 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Annual Meeting in Tavistock Library
basement hall beginning at 1:00 p.m.*



**Tavistock & District
Historical Society Inc.**

Executive:

Chairman: Paul Bartlett
Secretary: Mary Nicklas
Treasurer: Bob Rudy

Directors:

Sherrill Calder
Roy Erb
Bill Gladding
Bruce Halliday
Joyce Hill
Barb Matthies
Ed Pellow
Ron Saunders

What is The Lemp Studio Collection?

The Lemp Studio Collection consists of a collection of some 4,000 glass negatives taken by local photographers between 1890 and 1920. They were rescued from the Lemp pharmacy building attic at 16 Hope Street West in Tavistock in 1977. It was through the saving habits of photographer John Lemp and his son, Leonard, that these negatives are available today.

For the next twenty-nine years, these glass plates were catalogued, stored and preserved in the basement of the Tavistock Gazette at 119 Woodstock Street South under the guardianship of Gazette editor William Gladding.

It should be stressed that The Lemp Studio Collection is glass negatives, not photographs, and the challenge of identifying the subject of each of these timeless frames is an ongoing process. It is only through historical data, written accounts and comparison to existing photographic prints, that these negatives can be labelled and filed in meaningful order.

Over the years, many prints from these negatives have been published in the Tavistock Gazette. In addition, original prints have also been discovered and made available that help identify the original photographer as well as the occasion, date and subjects.

In 1983, about 700 of the best negatives were catalogued onto microfiche.

It should be stressed here that the bulk of the collection is portraits, family groups, etc. and only a small percentage of the glass plates have been printed or catalogued.

It is now up to you, the members and the public, to get involved in the research process. It will be a monumental task to clean, scan and print a copy of each negative, then catalogue and store each one.

As of March 25, 2006, the entire collection is now in the possession of the Tavistock and District Historical Society, the fulfillment of an ideal set back in 1977.

In addition, the Lemp Studio camera (photo at left) is also being donated to the Society at this time by Lyn Schlotzhauer on behalf of her late husband, Paul Schlotzhauer.

TAVISTOCK FIRST PHOTO ARTISTS

Tavistock's first photographers were a transient group who set up galleries in several towns on different days of the week. A print marked "Elliot, Tavistock" states a gallery is open Monday afternoon and Tuesday. Other photo cards bear the mark of itinerant photographers claiming to have studios in Tavistock. Some known marks include "Geo. Davidson, Photographer, Tavistock, Ont." ... "Evans' Photograph Gallery, Tavistock, Ont." ... "Cozen's Studio, Tavistock, Ont." ... and "J. McEwen, Photographer, Tavistock".

A. O. Murray took over in 1896, and a street scene from that time places him in the wooden buildings on the south side of Woodstock Street South, now Quehl's Restaurant. He closed his studio in 1903 and left for Bridgeburg where he accepted a job in the superintendent's office of the Grand Trunk Railroad. From 1903 to 1905, W. I. Becker of Stratford advertised operating a gallery one day a week in Tavistock.



Interesting fact:

The Lemp camera is an Eastman View No. 2 8x10 portrait camera made from mahogany with brass fittings, built between 1914 and 1920.

yes-ter-day:

- 1. *n.* the day which preceded today. (*rhet.*) recent time
- 2. *adv.* on or during yesterday (*rhet.*) at or during a recent time.

We have Charitable Status

We are pleased to announce that as of May 25, 2005 Tavistock & District Historical Society Inc. is a registered charity. Our business number is 86007 1778 RR0001. Cash donations to the Historical Society of \$10.00 or more will, upon request by the donor, generate a receipt that can be used for income tax purposes. Individuals donating artifacts/memorabilia to the museum (e.g. china, tools, furniture, etc.) will, upon request, receive a tax receipt for the fair market value of the item(s). We are not able to provide tax receipts for donations to the archives (e.g. postcards, scrapbooks, items of a paper nature) or for memberships. Tavistock & District Historical Society is grateful for all donations of cash and items for our collection.

Who's in your family tree?

Did you know that tracing your roots is the second most popular hobby in North America? Whether you are just starting the search for your great great grandfather or are an old hand at the genealogy game, the new Family History room at the museum has something for you.

Our family history library of reference material includes everything from local cemetery records to voters lists and census data to Tavistock Gazette files (1896 – 1915) and much much more. Of special interest are our binders of over 3500 local obituaries indexed for easy reference.

As an added bonus we have local family histories on file for your reading pleasure and use. Just to name a few, we have Wettlaufer and Wilker and Kaufman and Schlegel and Brenneman and Zehr. If you are connected to one of these "old Tavistock families" chances are you will be able to read about where your ancestors came from and what their life was like in the early days. The diaries of August Hanke and Solomon Stein make for interesting reading for lovers of local history.

Earlier this year we offered a workshop for beginner genealogists. More workshops are on the drawing board for 2006. Please let us know if you have a specific interest e.g. how to begin



The Lemp Studio Collection

Above, a print of the John Loth family from the estate of the late Erma Loth.

a search, computer programs, ways to tell your family stories (oral histories, scrapbooking), etc.

If you've already done a family tree / family history (let's not kid ourselves, they are never really done) we would be honoured to have it in our collection. Please talk to us about donating your work so that others can enjoy and benefit from your research. Similarly, we are interested in borrowing scrapbooks and old Gazettes to glean and copy information that will be of value to our family history room. Please tell us if you have something to share.

We look forward to working with you.

Who is John Lemp Jr.?

John Lemp, Jr., Phm. B. Oph. D., who had served his time in the drug business with Dr. Steele and Mr. J. A. Scott, attended the College of Pharmacy at Toronto in 1903-4. When he graduated he was only twelve marks behind the gold medalist. He spent nine months in Berlin and then went to Chicago, Illinois, for post-graduate work. He took courses at the Northern Illinois College of Ophthalmology and Otology, and the Illinois State Board of Pharmacy, and passed with honours at the head of the class, obtaining the degree of Oph.D.

He returned to Tavistock and purchased the drug store at 16 Hope Street West on July 7, 1905 from J. Brawn.

At the same time he acquired the glass negatives of the previous photographers, J. C.

Sutherland and A. O. Murray. Due to the saving habits of Mr. Lemp and his son, Leonard, who joined the company in 1928, these treasures were stored in the studio attic, undisturbed until 1977.

John Lemp Jr. was the son of John K. Lemp and Mary Leonard.

J. Lemp
TAVISTOCK, ONT.



John Lemp, Jr.
Phm. B. Oph. D.

\$5.00 *That's all it takes to become a member of the Tavistock and District Historical Society Inc.*

Crossroads in Time: A pictorial history

More than 100 years after the first photographers stepped into the Huron Tract to record the daily activities of our forefathers, the Lemp Studio Collection was born to preserve the glass negatives of Tavistock's early cameramen. Rescued from the Lemp Studio in 1977, the collection of nearly 4,000 glass negatives has since been catalogued and researched with the help of many interested citizens.

The late Carl Seltzer first became aware of the extensive collection stored in the attic of the old photo gallery when he was doing research for his centennial book published in 1967, entitled "Fact & Fantasy, A History of Tavistock & District". The value of these negatives was apparent to Tavistock Gazette publisher C. Robert Gladding who urged his son W. J. (Bill) Gladding to acquire the negatives from Leonard Lemp. At that time Mr. Lemp, son of the photographer John Lemp, was disposing of the business to Sinclair Pharmacy.

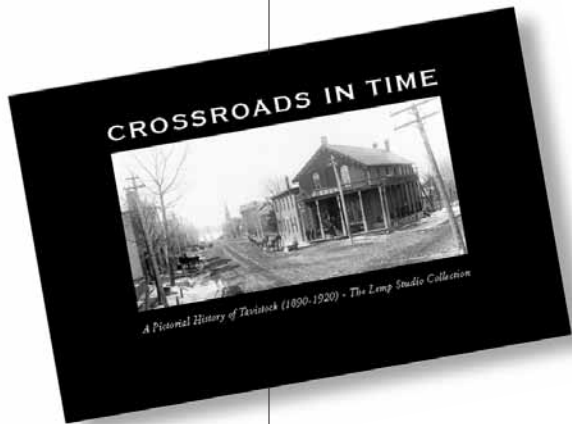
Bill Gladding, with the help of C. J. (Hap) Steinman and Jonathan Blum, removed the precious negatives from their 72-year rest in the Lemp attic and the chore of printing and cataloguing each negative began. Tim Mosher, at the time a student at Conestoga College, painstakingly looked at each negative and placed it in its proper category for future reference. Portraits, family groups, buildings, animals, and street scenes, etc. were all catalogued with negatives ranging in size from 8x10, to 5x7, 4x5,

3x4 and 2x3. Contact prints were made of many of the recognizable, good quality negatives, and then began a search for the identity of the subject and date each photograph was taken.

Many of the early 8x10 plates are believed to have been taken by J. C. Sutherland who operated a photo gallery on Woodstock Street South in Tavistock until 1896 or A. O. Murray who continued until 1903. W. I. Becker of Stratford operated a gallery one day a week from 1903 to 1905 when John Lemp opened his studio on Hope Street West, and acquired the inventory of glass negatives.

The photographs in this book are from the original glass negatives preserved by Mr. Lemp, unless otherwise stated in the credits. Some photographs are one-of-a-kind, original prints known to be taken by either Sutherland, Murray or Lemp, but for which no negatives have been found. Their historical value in this case, however, outweighs the absence of a negative.

Crossroads in Time is available for \$40. All proceeds to Rotary projects.



Crossroads in Time was published in 1998 by the Rotary Club of Tavistock on the occasion of their 50th anniversary and the 150 anniversary of the founding of Tavistock.

Tavistock & District Historical Society Inc.

37 Maria Street,
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Tavistock, Ontario,
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MUSEUM HOURS:
Saturdays
10am-12 noon

Other times
by appointment

DVD commemorates Year of the Veteran...

The Year of the Veteran Committee is continuing its research into 2006. Although we have names of nearly 500 Veterans and pictures of 290, there still are more Veteran's families out there that we need to contact. We have set September 1, 2006 as our date of completion of research. We would ask all the families who have forms to return them to us if they are incomplete. Also send us a photo of the veteran even if not in uniform. We will return all photos after they have been scanned for our records. We would like our information to be as complete as possible for our records and for future publication. We have made a DVD which has all pictures of veterans up to December 2005. The price is \$20.00 - available from Susan Pellow 655-2600 or Barbara Matthies 655-2292.

