

From the July 2013 Beacon Sombra Twp. Native takes medical skills to the battlefields of WWI France

Among the many noteworthy figures who have their roots here in St. Clair Township is Heber Havelock Moshier, a Sombra native whose medical career took him from the halls of notable universities and hospitals to the horror of the World War I battlefield.

Moshier was born Jan. 11, 1889 in Sombra Township to David Dingman Moshier and Mary Jane Coulter, but the family eventually moved to Toronto. It was there that Moshier married Ida Winifred Griffith in May, 1914. He received his early education in Sarnia, then studied medicine and was on the staff of Toronto General Hospital from 1909 to 1911. He practiced in Calgary from 1912 to 1913, became a Professor of Physiology at the University of Alberta from 1914 to 1916, and became the first chair of the university's Department of Physiology. He was only there until 1916, but he retained his title until his untimely death at the age of 29. In 1915, he was responsible for hiring James Bertram Collip to the department. Collip eventually went on to become co-discoverer of insulin along side Frederick Banting in 1920-21.

In March, 1916, Moshier joined the Canadian Medical Corps and was given the rank of major with the 11th Canadian Field Ambulance. While serving overseas, he kept a journal entitled *Diary of the Eleventh*, which can be still be read at some Canadian libraries or by visiting the Website of the University of Alberta. The diary provides an account of locations where the 11th served, including The Somme, Vimy Ridge, and Passchendaele. By 1918, he had attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel and he is mentioned in dispatches for his service in the field. After surviving the battle of Amiens, he died in France on Aug 29, 1918, killed while serving at an advanced dressing station during a military advance near Wancourt. He is buried in the Villers Station Cemetery, Pas de Calais.

Lieutenant-Colonel Heber Havelock Moshier is still honoured annually by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta through the presentation of the Moshier Memorial Gold Medal to the top graduating medical student. It is the most prestigious award the faculty presents.

Summer's *in the bag* at Moore Museum

Summer fun is in the bag (*a free bag*) at the Moore Museum right now. When you make the trip to Mooretown and enjoy all of the sights and fascinating displays the Moore Museum has to offer, you'll come away with treasured memories **and** a handsome tote bag. **While quantities last, just mention that you saw this article in *The Beacon* and receive this handsome and practical memento of your visit.**

The Moore Museum building contains a wide range of theme rooms that highlight local heritage dating back to pioneer and Victorian times, plus special interest rooms such as the Marine Room. You can even find mastodon bones and other oddities gathered from the surrounding communities.

Look further and you will find a museum site that has been turned into a 12-building historic village where visitors can become immersed in lives and work of past generations. Your heritage journey takes you through a one-room schoolhouse, an pioneer log cabin, a Victorian cottage, wooden caboose, historic church and several more intriguing buildings. Most have been moved onto the museum site from the original locations of their construction and have been lovingly restored by the museum's dedicated group of volunteers, lending a true sense of authenticity to the village and to your experience.

The Moore Museum guest book contains glowing comments like, "Very interesting", "Fantastic", "Great displays", "Love it!", and "Awesome", written by visitors from around the world who have been enchanted by their time spent browsing around the museum's halls and pathways.

The Moore Museum at 94 Moore Line in Mooretown is now open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. until the end of August. For more information, call 519-867-2020 or go the Website at: www.mooremuseum.ca