

WATERLOO PIONEERS MEMORIAL TOWER
MC.113



As early as 1919, the Waterloo Pioneer Memorial Association planned to build a monument dedicated to the memory of the early pioneers of Waterloo County. The Society purchased a 1.17 acre (0.49 ha) plot of land in January of 1924 from Isaac Furtney. The land; located south of Kitchener, north of Hespeler on the east side of the Grand River, had once been part of the homestead of Samuel Bri cker Sr.. The Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower was to be located close to the first inland cemetery in Ontario which has remained untouched since 1926.

Construction on the sixty-eight foot tall tower began in May of 1925 and was completed in August of 1926 at a total cost of \$4500. Its construction was funded through local and general subscriptions. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada officially recognized the site with the contribution of a tablet (see MC.113.1.8 and MC.113.3). This tablet honours the pioneers Joseph Schoerg and Samuel Betzner, who came from Franklin County, Pennsylvania in 1800.

Instrumental in the construction of the Waterloo Pioneers' Memorial Tower was William Henry (W.H.) Breithaupt, a civil engineer and engineering consultant from Kitchener. Breithaupt was not only the initiator of the monument project, but also the founder and Honorary President of the Waterloo Pioneer Memorial Association. He supervised the construction of the Tower. The dedication, at which Breithaupt was one of the speakers, was held on August 28, 1926.

Due to the lack of reserve funds, the Historic Sites Branch of the Department of the Interior obtained the Tower site in 1939 in order to maintain the neglected building. Made of field stone shank capped by a Swiss copper style roof, it is both a commemorative and observation tower. The Waterloo Pioneers' Memorial Tower can still be seen for many kilometers along the Grand River.

The Waterloo Pioneers' Memorial Tower Collection is the second collection donated to the Kitchener Public Library. The first can be found as MC.55 and includes newspapers, correspondence, plans and drawings. This collection (MC.113) consists of numerous pieces of correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and others involved with the Memorial project. Also present are bills, tablet information, sketches and blueprints, and other miscellaneous items. Most of these items are from 1925 and 1926.

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Correspondence

- MC.113.1.1 Correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and the Canadian National Parks (c/o J.B. Harkin). Twenty letters regarding the placement on the government tablet and the specifics of the tower as well as the unvieling ceremony. Dated March 14, 1925 to August 27, 1926.
- MC.113.1.2 Correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and James Eagle. Two letters regarding the erection of the tower's wooden spire. Dated July 13 and 19, 1926.
- MC.113.1.3 Correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and Percival and H. Douglas Eby (c/o National Grocers Company). Five letters in appeal for financial contributions for the Tower funds and unvieling ceremony. Dated June 2, 1926 to August 27, 1926.
- MC.113.1.4 Correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and John A. Fox regarding the cornice and corbels of the tower and the placement of rails. Seven letters dated October 17, 1925 to September 28, 1926.
- MC.113.1.5 Correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and R.Forbes Company Limited (Mr. Panabaker, President of the Waterloo Pioneer Memorial Association). Three letters regarding the tower. Dated April 15, 1925 to June 19, 1926.
- MC.113.1.6 Correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and William and G.B. Hallman, Pine and Hardwood Lumber, Lath, Railway Ties. Six letters regarding oak timber for the Tower. Dated May 20, 1926 to November 3, 1926.
- MC.113.1.7 Correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and the Hamilton Bridge Works Company Limited. Five letters regarding rods and plated for the Tower. Dated June 26, 1926 to September 13, 1926.
- MC.113.1.8 Correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and Historic Sites and Monuments Canada (c/o E.A Cruickshank, chairman). Ten letters regarding the text for the Government Tablet for the Tower. Dated February 20, 1925 to November 3, 1925.
- MC.113.1.9 Correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and W.A. Langton, Architect. Forty-three letters regarding the construction of the Tower. Dated February 22, 1925 to June 26, 1926.
- MC.113.1.10 Miscellaneous correspondence between W.H. Breithaupt and Preston Metal Shingle and Siding Company, W.J. Letson, William Knell and Company, C.M Lundy, J. Hall and Son, J. Kaufman Limited, J.E. Tripp and Son, A.S. Allan, E. Hartman, a Mrs. Murray and A.R. Kaufman. Dated June 30, 1925 to September 6, 1927.

Bills

- MC.113.2.1 "Bill of Lumber Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower."
- MC.113.2.2 "In Account With The Trustees of the Estate of Loius Breithaupt."
- MC.113.2.3 "Bill of Lumber Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower."
- MC.113.2.4 List of lumber dated May 19, 1926.
- MC.113.2.5 Bill from the Metal Shingle and Siding Company Limited for steel sahes dated June 23, no year.
- MC.113.2.6 "List of Lumber Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower."
- MC.113.2.7 Business card with financial notations for Superior Stone Limited.

Tablet

- MC.113.3.1 Envelope containing pamphlet "Conditions of a Competition for Designs Landmarks on Historical Sites," in envelope marked "Govt Tablet," 1922.
- MC.113.3.2 "Inscription for Memorial Tablet, Settler's Monument," four copies, March 21, 1925.
- MC.113.3.3 Different version of inscription.
- MC.113.3.4 "Enclosure with Letter of H.H.C. Dated 20th.Feb.1925." Copy of inscription with letter count.

Miscellaneous

- MC.113.4.1 "List of Paid Subscriptions to the Waterloo County Pioneer Memorial Association." Includes names, address and amount of contribution.
- MC.113.4.2 As above, handwritten copy.
- MC.113.4.3 Business card "Shipway Iron, Bell and Wire Co. Ltd.."
- MC.113.4.4 Sheet with calendar page attached and notes on the Tower dated September 20, 1929.
- MC.113.4.5 Two pages of notes or Meeting Minutes for the Executive of the Waterloo County Pioneer's Memorial Association April 28, 1925 to June 5, 1926.
- MC.113.4.6 Notes on the materials, measurements, etc. for the Tower, two copies.
- MC.113.4.7 Rough notes on finance and materials for the Tower, 1925
- MC.113.4.8 Post card for W.H. Breithaupt from the Public Library of Toronto acknowledging receipt of a post card showing the tablet for the Tower.

Sketches and Blueprints

- MC.113.5.1 "Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower Entrance," 1 sketch, three blueprints by Langton.
- MC.113.5.2 "Door and Frame for Memorial Tower Full Size," by Langton
- MC.113.5.3 "Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower Sketch for Entrance," by Langton.
- MC.113.5.4 Two CNE certificates : one for "Braonze Medal Awarded to the Berlin Woodenware Company for exhibit of Wooden Swings, Ladders, Rockinghorses," 1909. One for "Diploma awarded to Berlin Woodenware for exhibit of Ladders, Washing machines," 1910.
- MC.113.5.5 Sketch of railings for baustrade of Tower by Shipway Iron, Bell and Wire Manufacturing Company Limited.
- MC.113.5.6 As above, samples of different types of railings.
- MC.113.5.7 Blueprint of doorway with government tablet, four copies
- MC.113.5.8 "Memorial Tower Bench," on graph paper.
- MC.113.5.9 "Memorial Tower Sections," on graph paper.
- MC.113.5.10 Different sketches of Tower.
- MC.113.5.11 Blueprint of entrance without tablet dated May 19, 1925.
- MC.113.5.12 Sketches of Tower with struts and rafters.
- MC.113.5.13 In envelope, blueprint "Spiral Staircase," by Shipway Iron, Bell and Wire Manufacturing Company Limited.
- MC.113.5.14 Sketch of entrance with Enclosure card from Canadian National Parks No. 13691, June 23, 1925.
- MC.113.5.15 "Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower Entrance" without tablet and with additional print of arch, two copies.
- MC.113.5.16 "Sketch for Memorial Tower on the Grand River," by Langton.
- MC.113.5.17 In envelope "For Waterloo Pioneer's Memorial Association from Hamilton Bridge Works Company Limited, July 1926.
- MC.113.5.18 Large sketch of stairway.
- MC.113.5.19 Oversized "Waterloo Pioneers Association Memorial Tower Full Sized Details of Stone Corbels and Moulded Concrete Course."
- MC.113.5.20 Oversized "Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower Detail of Cornice Moulding Full Size," by Langton.
- MC.113.5.21 "Waterloo Pioneer Memorial Tower Full size details of Cut Stone work for Windows," by Langton.

- MC.113.5.22 Four copies of outside view of the Pioneers' Memorial Tower by Langton.
- MC.113.5.23 Oversized "Waterloo Pioneers' Memorial Association Memorial Full Size of Finial of Roof," by Langton.
- MC.113.5.24 Large blueprint "Waterloo Pioneer Association Memorial Details of Roof and Gallery."

Photographs

- MC.113.6.1 Negative of Tower after fieldstone shank was built, without roof.
- MC.113.6.2 Three photographs of the above negative.