

I have spoken about my Father's experiences as well as referenced letters to his Mother and Father so I thought I would say something about my Mother, Patricia Roberta Anderson, and her Parents.

Both Mom's Mother, Grace Victoria Faulkner (nee McGimpsey) and Father, William Robert Wheeler Faulkner, immigrated to Canada from Ireland. In 1910, Grace and her Mother Rose Ann, along with their cousin Victor, set sail and poor Grace was seasick during the whole crossing. In later years, she told my brother John and I that if someone had thrown her overboard, she would have thanked them! For the rest of her life she hated and avoided boats of any kind. John and I would go to her place every day from school for lunch. She was one of the kindest and most gentle persons I have ever known, plus she made the best Irish soda bread I have ever tasted!

With respect to my Grandpa Faulkner, the 1907 passenger list for the ship "Ionian" indicates he accompanied his sister Bella to Canada and later must have returned to Ireland because Sheet No. 14 of *The List Or Manifest Of Alien Passengers Applying For Admission To The United States From Foreign Contiguous Territory* for the month of January 1911, shows that both he and his brother George arrived at the Port Of Winnipeg. Five years later, April 19<sup>th</sup> 1916, William, at 34 years of age, enlisted in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force with the Canadian Army Medical Corps (C.A.M.C.), Regimental No. 523910. On October 24<sup>th</sup>, he married Grace. Grace, who was 11 years younger than William, once asked him why he hadn't married earlier to which he replied "I was waiting for you". Grace was a quiet, loving, gracious lady who had made a home for her mother, sister and husband and children. She was shy and lacking confidence as a child and she said that it was William who first, and always made her feel worthwhile.

## **My Grandpa Faulkner's War**



In December 1916, William boarded the SS Olympic (sister ship of the Titanic) at Halifax and left Canada to go overseas once again, this time to do his part in the “Great War”. Upon arrival at Liverpool, England, he went to Purfleet and on to Shorncliffe where he departed for France. On March 11th, 1917, he arrived in Boulonge France, where he was immediately struck off service from the C.A.M.C. and attached to the 3rd Battalion, Canadian Railway Troops. According to an Archivist<sup>1</sup>, it appears that he was an Assistant Director of Medical Services in charge of overseeing the hygiene of the water supply. On March 12th, the troops received their medical inspection and were each issued a steel helmet and gas mask. At 4:00 PM, they paraded and marched to the railway station, leaving Boulonge at 8:30 PM. The next day, the 3rd Batallion arrived in Barlin, France, approximately 22 kilometres or 13 miles from Vimy Ridge. On April 9, 1917, the Battle of Vimy Ridge opened and the CRT laid rail lines on the heels on the advance.

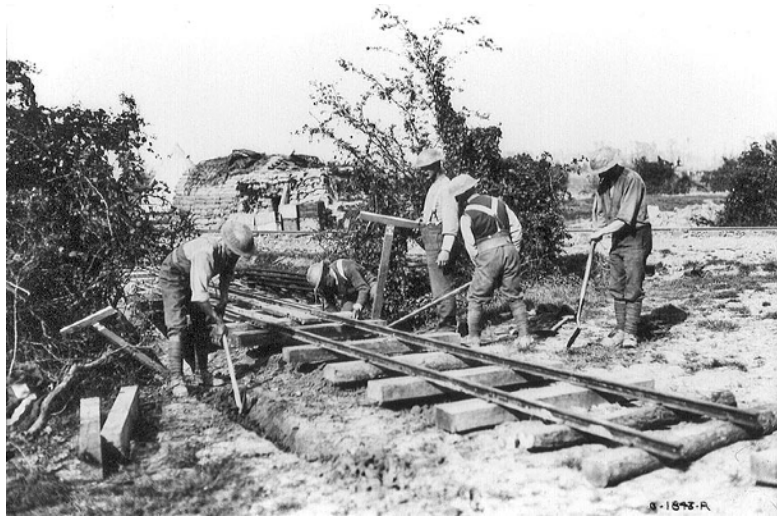
Canadian Railway Troop Activities (Source of Photographs - Library and Archives Canada)

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<sup>1</sup> Jason Nisenson at the University of Calgary at The Military Museums Library and Archives



*Grading for light railway construction.*



*Laying track in shelled area.*



*Repairing track.*



*Loading ammunition on a light railroad.*



*Bringing Canadian wounded to a Field Dressing Station at Vimy Ridge.*

An article from Wikipedia states:

“Vimy Ridge fell under German control in October 1914 during the *Race to the Sea* as the Franco-British and German forces continually attempted to outflank each other through northeastern France.<sup>2</sup> The French Tenth Army attempted to dislodge the Germans from the region during the Second Battle of Artois in May 1915 by attacking their positions at Vimy Ridge and Notre Dame de Lorette. The French 1st Moroccan Division managed to briefly capture the height of the ridge but was unable to hold it owing to a lack of reinforcements.<sup>3</sup> The French made another attempt during the Third Battle of Artois in September 1915 but only captured the village of Souchez at the western base of the ridge.<sup>4</sup> The Vimy sector calmed following the offensive with both sides taking a largely live and let live approach. In all, the French suffered approximately 150,000 casualties in their attempts to gain control of Vimy Ridge and surrounding territory”.<sup>5</sup>

In an article published online in 2006 by Richard Foot for The Canadian Encyclopedia, he states that Battle of Vimy Ridge is Canada’s most celebrated military victory, an often-mythologized symbol of

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<sup>2</sup> Boire, Michael (2007), “The Battlefield before the Canadians, 1914-1916” pp. 52-53, in Hayes, Geoffrey; Iarocci, Andrew; Bechthold, Mike (eds.) *Vimy Ridge: A Canadian Reassessment*, Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier University Press, pp. 51-61

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p. 56

<sup>4</sup> Tucker, Spencer. ed. (1996), *The European Powers in the First World War: An Encyclopedia*, New York: Garland, p. 68

<sup>5</sup> Turner, Alexander (2005) *Vimy Ridge 1917: Byng’s Canadians Triumph at Arras*, London: Osprey, p. 8



the birth of Canadian national pride and awareness. Four divisions of the Canadian Corps, fighting together for the first time, attacked the ridge from 9 to 12 April 1917 and captured it from the German army. It was the largest territorial advance of any Allied force to that point in the war, but it would mean little to the outcome of the conflict. In the assault, 3,598 Canadians were killed and another 7,000 wounded. German casualties are estimated at 20,000, with 4,000 taken prisoner. Today, an iconic memorial atop the ridge honours the 11,285 Canadians killed in France throughout the war who have no known graves.

On February 13, 1918, William was promoted to Sergeant.



William and Grace



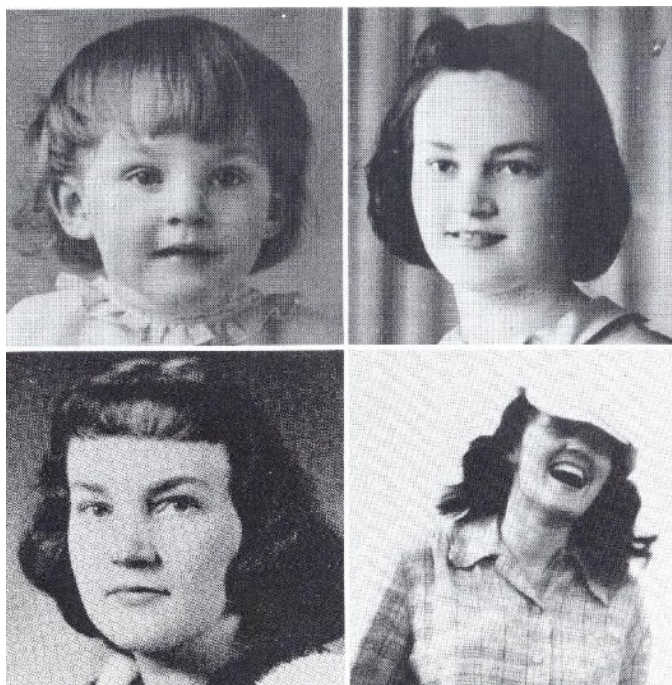
George and William Faulkner

Nine months later, on November 11, 1918, the Allied powers signed a cease-fire agreement with Germany at Rethondes, France, bringing World War I to a close. In spite of this, the entire Canadian Corps did not go home as the 1st and 2nd Divisions were ordered to occupy Germany. Amongst them were the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, after whom, William and Grace would name their daughter.

With the outbreak of the Spanish flu in the winter of 1918, which would eventually cause more deaths than WW I (20,000,000 in a few months), the Canadian government decided it was time to bring the troops home. On April 21, 1919, William was discharged and awarded the Class "A" War Service Badge # 165183, for "those who saw service at the front", France and Belgium, 1 year 10 months". At the end of WW I, there were 100,000 soldiers in the Canadian Corps, of which, 60,000 were killed and 83,000 wounded or crippled. The total number killed of Allied soldiers killed reached 9,000,000, with 20,000,000 maimed!

Before returning to Canada, William took the chance to go to see his mother. Because it was not possible to go into Donegal wearing a Canadian army uniform, a friend lent him civilian clothes and he was able to visit his family and see his mother for the last time. His concern and devotion to this lady, as well as his other siblings, is most evident in his letters.

### **Patricia Roberta Anderson**





*Patricia and her Brother Albert*

The following presentation was made by Ronald J. Riddell, Instructor of Physics and Fellow of United College (1988) May 7, 1987. It sums up what can be said about my Mother better that I could:

*“Mr. Chancellor: I have the honour to present Patricia Robert Anderson.*

*Patricia Anderson was born to the late William and Grace Faulkner in 1921. She received her early education in Earl Grey and Kelvin Schools. Teachers of French, Latin and Mathematics early identified her as a student of considerable promise.*

*The pathway to fruition of that promise was at times difficult. Kelvin School did not offer Grade XII courses. With determined sacrifice by her unemployed father she was able to register in the first classes offered by United College Collegiate Division. In June, 1939, she graduated from the Collegiate with the highest academic standing in her class.*

*Various scholarships awarded to her, and earning from part-time work at Woolworth's, Birks, Eaton's and The Bay, enabled her to complete university studies at United College. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba in 1942.*

*Love of learning, love of people, and much encouragement from her teachers and professors at United College determined her vocational choice. She enrolled in the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba in 1942. Her teaching career began even before the normal May completion date of the professional certification year. With the blessing of the Dean she accepted a position to*



*teach History and English from March through June in the high school a Teulon. She remained there for an additional school year adding French to the subject areas she taught.*

*In 1944 Grandin School in Fort Garry advertised for a teacher of English, French, Latin and History, Grades VII through XI. Pat Anderson, well qualified for the position, began her work there in September, 1944. She soon found herself in difficult circumstances. In January, 1946, in an expression of the strong personal convictions she held in such matters, she joined en masse staff resignations to protest positions taken by the School Board in dealing with its employees. With typical resourcefulness, she finished out the school term by teaching Latin at the University of Manitoba, and a variety of courses at the Department of Veterans' Affairs School. In September 1946 she returned to her alma mater to teach French and Latin.*

*Her classes were crowded with war veterans seeking the language qualifications required for university admission. One of these, Robert A. Anderson, she married in 1949. The births of sons Bill in 1951 and John in 1953, and the attendant responsibilities of them did not take her from the classroom completely. In the '50's and '60's she combined teaching and parenting to demonstrate admirably the spirit of '80's feminism. She remains firmly committed to that movement.*

*Pat Anderson and Special French are virtually synonymous for United College students of the mid-fifties through the mid-sixties. The Special French curriculum included the work of Grade VII through XI. Classes met Monday through Saturday. Students were of extremely varied age, ability and academic background. Pat Anderson's exceptional teaching ability and her compassionate concern for them earned the affection and esteem of all who learned from her in those difficult circumstances. These feelings typify those shared by generations of United College and University of Winnipeg students.*

*In 1975, she was elected Assistant Dean of the Collegiate Division. Countless students benefitted from her wise counsel. Her special understanding of University affairs enabled her to make valuable contributions to the work of the University Senate and its committees. Her participation in Collegiate Alumni Association activities maintained valued contacts with former students. In 1985 further recognition of her administrative abilities came with her appointment as Associate Dean of Collegiate; for much of the period just prior to retirement, while the Dean was on leave, she assumed full responsibility for the Division.*

*It has been said that "the finest and most enduring contributions to life ... are to be found in those simple, kindly deeds which add to the enrichment of our common existence". This we recognize in the contributions made by Pat Anderson to our institution and our lives.*

*Mr. Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate of the University of Winnipeg, I request that you admit PATRICIA ROBERTA ANDERSON, to Fellowship in United College".*



Howard Mathieson  
Fellow of United College (2007)

Dr. Henry Edmison Duckworth  
Fellow of United College (1966)  
Officer, Order of Canada (1976)

Mom once told me that during contract negotiations with teacher representatives, she felt that she was on the wrong side of the table.

Mom and Dad were long time residents of Fort Garry and members of Fort Garry United Church. They loved to travel with many trips overseas and Hawaii. After retirement, Mom continued to travel with friends, as well as many vacations with family to Hawaii. Clear Lake vacations were an annual tradition started by Dad and Mom in 1949, continuing to this day with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren carrying on the tradition. Above all else, Mom's family came first, especially encouraging her grandchildren to pursue their dreams and enjoy life.

On October 14, 2016 she passed away peacefully at the age of 95. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother Albert in 1948, and her husband Bob in 1979.