

WWI BAR CALL APPLICATION
SUBMISSIONS OF KEITH MARLOWE (LEGAL ARCHIVES SOCIETY)
BEFORE THE HON. MR. JUSTICE B. NIXON
NOVEMBER 9, 2018

Good afternoon Chief Justice Moreau, Associate Chief Justice Rooke, Justice Nixon, and all of the other Justices and Judges of the Court.

My name is Keith Marlowe. I am a Partner of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, and I am the Treasurer of the Legal Archives Society of Alberta.

Justice Nixon, it is my most sincere honour and privilege to present this application to you today, which is the application to posthumously admit to the Alberta Bar:

- Lieutenant William McKee
- Private Thomas McLean
- Second Lieutenant Douglas Morison
- Lance Corporal Frank Oldroyd
- Lieutenant Frederick Perraton
- Captain Ernest Pinkham
- Second Lieutenant Llewellyn Roberts
- Corporal Alexander Ross
- Private Harold Skene
- Second Lieutenant Roy Steckley
- Lance Corporal Edwin Wilson
- Major Joshua Wright
- Major James Young

The Legal Archives Society of Alberta is honoured to be a part of organizing this most important Ceremony in this most important year, the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Great War. The mandate of the Legal Archives Society is to preserve and protect the rich history of our Alberta bar. There is no greater honour than to tell the stories of these young men and to pay tribute to the sacrifice they made in World War I.

Over the past several months, I have been fortunate to make the acquaintance of many of the family members who are here with us today. One of those family members who has found a special place in my heart is Leslie Lavers. Leslie is here today to remember Corporal John Logan. She told me that this Ceremony brought Corporal Logan back to life. It put him into three dimensions again, after he had no opportunity to get married, to have kids, to have his career as a lawyer.

The reaction we received was much the same from the twelve other families we were able to contact. These families told us about the deep and profound impact that the loss of these young soldiers had on their families.

Corporal Logan is lucky to have Leslie Lavers and her family here today.

Lieutenant Perraton is lucky to have Marlene Perraton and her family here today.

Private Skene is lucky to have George Stewart his family here today.

Sadly, we were simply unable to find families of 24 of the students being admitted today.

Paraphrasing remarks made by the Very Reverend Dean Edward Paget, the first Dean of Calgary, Alberta when unveiling a plaque for Captain Ernest Pinkham at the Pro-Cathedral Church of the Redeemer here in Calgary, we must honour the soldier's stay for coming generations and guard against the oblivion of their names.

That is precisely what this Ceremony is all about.

So for the memory of the 37 students being honoured here today, but in particular for the 24 students who have no one else to remember them, I bid you to read the stories contained in the Program about these young men. About how they lived and died.

I bid you to share those stories with your families, your friends, and your colleagues so that the memories of these students will not fade and also die.

On Remembrance Day, I will remember the story of Private Harold Skene who at just 24 years of age was killed by a sniper while fighting at Passchendaele. Private Skene has no known grave. The fields and pastures of Belgium are his grave. Private Skene's story hits close to my heart. My great grandfather, Corporal William Jeffery, also fought at Passchendaele. I'd like to think that Corporal Jeffery and Private Skene might have had occasion to meet in the trenches, to share a cigarette and a story, and to fight shoulder to shoulder. I will remember Private Skene.

I will forever remember the story of Major Joshua Wright. Major Wright and his wife, Muriel, together had a daughter named Ellen. Ellen was born after Major Wright left to go overseas with the 50th Calgary Battalion. Major Wright died in the Battle of the Somme. He, too, has no known grave. The fields and pastures of France are his grave. Major Wright never met his daughter, Ellen. For me, as a father of daughters, this is an unimaginable tragedy. I will remember Major Wright.

I will forever remember the story of Major James Young. At 22 years old, Major Young was one of the youngest majors in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Earlier in the war, Major Young suffered a gunshot wound to the head and shoulder. He recovered and returned to the Front. Sadly, Major Young was killed in action on October 13, 1918, less than one month before the armistice was signed. Major Young's wife, Phyllis, who he had just married in Paris while on leave in July 1918, received the sad news one evening at 10:00 p.m., the very night she expected Major Young to come home on leave. The doorbell rang, and Phyllis herself answered the door expecting Major Young to come in and embrace her after having been at the front. Instead, it was the messenger delivering the telegram of his death. I will remember Major Young.

Time does not permit us to tell all of the stories of all of these young men. I bid you to read their stories and to reflect on them in your own time. I will remember all of them.

In words of John McRae when he so famously said, To you from failing hands we throw the torch, be yours to hold it high.

Remember these young men.

Keep the torch of their lives and their deaths alive in your heads and in your hearts.

We Have Not Forgotten.

We Will Not Forget.

We Shall not break faith with you.

My Lord, I pray that you grant my application to admit these young men, these law students, these soldiers, these heroes to the Law Society of Alberta as Barristers and Solicitors.