

(by Bill Stevens – originally published in the March 2002 Newsletter)

Ann was President from 1952 to 1957 of the Lincoln Historical Society, now The Historical Society of St. Catharines. Ann was the Society's first female president and one of the longer serving presidents.

Ann was born in St. Catharines as Ann Elizabeth ELLIOTT on April 23, 1884. She lived her entire life here and was very active in the community. She was a frequent contributor to The Standard of articles of historical interest.

During World War II she was secretary of the Queen Mary Needlework Guild of St. Catharines and for many years was also president of the Guild. The Guild assisted in the packing of bales of clothing to be sent to the Queen Mary Needlework Guild in London, England.

When Winston Churchill was in Queenston in 1943, he expressed an interest in Laura Secord, the Women's Literary Society, of which Ann was President, sent him a book on the story of Laura Secord. She also belonged to St. George's Anglican Church and was a member of the Women's Service Club. She was a member of the Athenaeum Club. She was active in the IODE and was a life member of Lord Tennyson chapter.

A newspaper write-up featuring Mrs. Montgomery in The Standard of July 17, 1962, titled "Stories of the past are her passion" pointed out her immense enthusiasm for history. She explained that her uncles had told her about their participation in the Civil War and the Fenian Raids and that her grandfather was in the Mackenzie Rebellion. She points out that her ancestors

came to Canada from Ireland in 1835. Throughout the article she enthuses about the history of St. Catharines and points out that we have no local museum. She is quoted as saying, "Until we get one, people won't part with antiques or anything worth while" ... "If all the people who have been living here so long would write a history of their families, we would have something permanent. More of the historical sites should be marked, not just for interest, but so they aren't torn down."

The Montgomerys lived at 159 Russell Avenue. Ann passed away at the St. Catharines General Hospital on August 28, 1964, after being ill for a month. Her husband George predeceased her in 1953. At her death, four nieces and one nephew survived her. On August 29 a service was held at 2 p.m. in the Hulse and English Funeral chapel, with her burial following in Victoria Lawn Cemetery (old section M, division 29, lot 3, grave 4 west).

The monument marking her grave site reads as follows: George Ernest Montgomery Feb 22, 1885 – Oct 18, 1953 – His wife Ann Elizabeth Elliott Apr 23, 1884 – Aug 28, 1964.