

## **REEVES of the VILLAGE of MERRITTON - 1874 - 1918**

### **MAYORS of the TOWN of MERRITTON - 1918 - 1960**

- \* This information was compiled by William John Stevens
- \* Information is current to January 2022
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- \* The intent is simply to provide a brief outline of each known Reeve and Mayor of Merritton, which was an independent community prior to amalgamation with the City of St. Catharines on January 1, 1961.
- \* If you are aware of any errors or know of any missing information please pass it along - e-mail: [bibmstev@computan.on.ca](mailto:bibmstev@computan.on.ca).

## **REEVES of the VILLAGE of MERRITTON - 1874 - 1918**

1. William Wilson **WAITE** - 1874 – 1879
2. John **McLEAN** - 1880 – 1881, 1888 -1891
3. James Dudley **MULRENAN** - 1882
4. Richard **LEESON** - 1883 – 1884
5. Elija Hollister **PHELPS** - 1885 – 1887, 1903 - 1909
6. Thomas James **PRIOR** - 1892
7. William Henry **WILSON** - 1893 – 1895, 1902, 1910 - 1912
8. Jesse Moorhouse **NESS** - 1896
9. Stephen Richard **BRADLEY** -1897 – 1898
10. Milo Goodrich **PHELPS** - 1899
11. Dr. James Frances **VANDEBURGH** - 1900 – 1901
12. Richard **CARROLL** - 1913 – 1914
13. Henry John **BRADLEY** – 1915 – 1917
14. Alexander Rogers **THOMPSON** - 1918 partial

## **MAYORS of the TOWN of MERRITTON - 1918 - 1960**

15. Thomas Fraser **HASTINGS** - 1918 partial – 1920, 1925 - 1926
16. Robert **STUART** - 1921 – 1922
17. Henry Nelson (Harry) **BOYLE** -1923 – 1924, 1927 – 1930
18. Thomas **FAIRBURNE** - 1931 – 1933
19. John H. **SCOTT** - 1934 – 1941
20. Frederick Oswald **LEESON** - 1942 – 1945, 1951 - 1955
21. Leslie Herbert **SKIPPER** - 1946 – 1950
22. Harley Marvin **JOHNSON** - 1956 – 1960 partial
23. William Robert **McINTOSH** - 1960 partial

### **1. William Wilson WAITE**

Reeve – 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879

Born – 22 April 1830 – Black Creek, Willoughby Township, Welland County

Parents: Reuben and Abigail (nee PATTERSON) WAITE

Married – Caroline BENNETT – c1856 - Grantham Township

Died – 03 April 1902 – St. Catharines

Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery - O.C. - Section 'B'

Occupation – established stove manufacturing co. in 1855; cotton manufacturer; enumerator; government storekeeper on the Welland Canal

Residence – Merritt Street near Chestnut; (1877) north side Pine Street

Other – was first cotton manufacturer in Canada; religion: Church of England

### **2. John McLEAN**

Reeve – 1880, 1881, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891

Born – 08 October 1838 – Boyle, County Roscommon, Ireland

Parents: Hugh and Letitia (nee GELLCOPE) McLEAN

Married – Eliza Jane MALPAS – 16 October 1867 - St. Catharines

Died – 28 January 1918 - Merritton

Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery - Mausoleum

Occupation – lumber merchant (McCleary & McLean Sawmill)

Residence – Merritt Street

Other – religion: Methodist Canada

### **3. James Dudley MULRENAN**

Reeve - 1882

Born – \_\_\_ September 1848 – Saratoga County, New York

Parents: James and Ann MULRENAN

Married – Mary E. WILLIAMS - \_\_\_ March 1870 (or 1875) - New York, U.S.A.

Died – 26 March 1921 - Hadley, Saratoga County, New York

Buried -

Occupation – Secretary of St. Catharines Pulp and Paper Company

Residence – Thorold Road near Merritton Paper Mills; Lot 11 Conc. 10

Other - religion: Presbyterian

### **4. Richard LEESON**

Reeve – 1883, 1884

Born – 06 November 1848 – Quebec

Parents: Robert and Margaret LEESON

Married – not married

Died – 06 August 1904 - Merritton

Buried – Old Lakeview Cemetery - Section 'C' - Thorold

Occupation – merchant, grocery, wood and coal dealer

Residence – Lock Street near Catharine Street, Mountain Street

Other – religion: Church of England

### **5. Elijah Hollister PHELPS**

Reeve – 1885, 1886, 1887, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909

Born – 03 November 1841 – Merritton, Ontario

Parents: Samuel Green and Marietta (nee GOODRICH) PHELPS

Married – Clara Augusta SAUNDERS – 01 February 1865 - Grantham Township

Died – 18 March 1924 – Merritton

Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – O.C. – Section ‘B’, Plot 50, Lot 1

Occupation – manufacturer (E.H. Phelps & Co. Wheel & Shaft Manufacturer)

Residence – St. Catharines Road near north line; 296 Merritt Street

Other – religion: Methodist Canada

### **6. Thomas James PRIOR**

Reeve - 1892

Born – 12 November 1849 - Toronto

Parents: Richard and Ann PRIOR

Married – Sarah Ann WINSLOW – 18 October 1871 – St. George’s Anglican Church

Died – 12 November 1940 – General Hospital, St. Catharines

Buried - Victoria Lawn Cemetery – O.C. - Section ‘J’

Occupation – superintendent Lybster Cotton Manufacturing Co. (1881); owner of Dominion Haircloth

Residence – Merritt Street; 53 Queen Street, St. Catharines; Canal Street, Merritton (1907)

Other – religion: Church of England (St. James then St. Thomas); when he died he was the second oldest member of the Masonic Order of Canada

### **7. William Henry WILSON**

Reeve – 1893, 1894, 1895, 1902, 1910, 1911, 1912

Born – 10 May 1854 - Ontario

Parents: Thomas and Catherine (nee SEXSMITH) WILSON

Married – Sarah Ann HOPE – 03 May 1875 – St. Catharines

Died – 20 June 1921 – St. Catharines

Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – O.C. - Section ‘Q’

Occupation – labourer, finisher, assistant Superintendent on the Canal

Residence – Haight Street

Other – religion: Methodist Canada; parents: Thomas and Catherine WILSON

### **8. Jesse Moorhouse NESS**

Reeve - 1896

Born – 17 October 1842 - Smithville, Ontario

Parents: John and Jane (nee MOORHOUSE) NESS

Married - Sarah Ann WILSON

Died – 19 November 1922 – Merritt Street, Welland

Buried – Elm Lawn Cemetery, Tonawanda, New York

Occupation – blacksmith, Riordon Paper Mill

Residence – Merritt Street (near Lybster Cotton Mill in 1903); n.s. Almond Street (1893), in 1921 living with daughter Ida and husband George Gordon in Port Dalhousie  
Other – religion: C. Methodist

### **9. Stephen Richard BRADLEY**

Reeve – 1897, 1898  
Born – 16 January 1851 - Merritton  
Parents: Stephen and Mary (nee KEATING) BRADLEY  
Married – Mary Louise JONES - 6 April 1880 in Merritton  
Died – 28 April 1930 – at residence in Merritton  
Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – N.C. – Section ‘B’  
Occupation – spoke turner  
Residence – Canal Street (Lock 11 old canal)  
Other – religion: Church of England (member of St. James)

### **10. Milo Goodrich PHELPS**

Reeve - 1899  
Born – 18 December 1865 - Merritton  
Parents: Elijah Hollister and Clara Augusta (nee SAUNDERS) PHELPS  
Married – Henrietta A. WILLIAMS - 7 February 1889 in St. Catharines  
Died – 13 November 1955  
Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – O.C. – Section ‘B’  
Occupation – foreman, spoke sorter  
Residence – Canal Street; Merritt Street; 176 Oakdale Avenue (1950)  
Other – father: Elijah Hollister PHELPS (Reeve #5); religion: Methodist

### **11. Dr. James Frances VANDERBURGH**

Reeve – 1900, 1901  
Born – 23 January 1851 -Allanburg, Thorold Township, Welland County  
Parents: Henry and Maria (nee HILL) VANDERBURGH  
Married – Clara Edith DAWDY -  
Died – 29 August 1924 - Merritton  
Buried - Victoria Lawn Cemetery - O.C. - Section ‘L’  
Occupation – Doctor, medical officer of health for Merritton  
Residence – 142 Merritt Street (near R/R bridge)  
Other – religion: Methodist Canada

### **12. Richard CARROLL**

Reeve – 1913, 1914  
Born – 15 August 1862 - Ireland  
Parents: James and Margaret (nee GOLDEN) CARROLL  
Married – Elizabeth (Jane) GOLDEN - 19 January 1906 – St. James Church Rectory, Merritton  
Died – 16 August 1918 (aged 55 years) – Grantham Township, Ontario  
Buried – Old Lakeview Cemetery - Section ‘B’ - Thorold  
Occupation – woodworker, barker in paper mill, locktender

Residence – Merritt Street, Merritton  
Other - religion: Church of England

### **13. Henry John BRADLEY**

Reeve – 1915, 1916, 1917

Born – 25 March 1860 - Louth Township, Lincoln County

Parents: Richard and Annie (nee PARKER) BRADLEY

Married - Agnes (Aggie) BALLANTINE - 15 April 1886 in Grantham Township, Lincoln County

Died - 26 March 1939 - at residence on Lincoln Street, Merritton

Buried - Victoria Lawn Cemetery -

Occupation – superintendent (1918), Millwright at Garden City & Alliance Paper Mills for 45 years

Residence – Disher Street; Merritt Street (1912)

Other - Ordained Deacon at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church; member Knox Presbyterian Church; member of L.O.L. No.77 Merritton

### **14. Alexander Rogers THOMPSON**

Reeve – 1918 partial

Born – 10 October 1851 - Burford, Ontario

Parents: William Henry and Anna Tannahill (nee ROGERS) THOMPSON

Married - Laura CADHAM - 24 May 1880 in Clifton, Welland County.

Died – 19 May 1918 – St. Catharines

Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – Section 'T'

Occupation – salesman (1880), grocer (1912)

Residence – Merritt Street, Merritton (1912)

Other – religion: Presbyterian

### **15. Thomas Fraser HASTINGS**

Mayor – 1918 partial, 1919, 1920, 1925, 1926

Born – 18 February 1866 – St. Catharines

Parents: James and Julia HASTINGS

Married – Elizabeth BLACKWOOD - 16 February 1888 in Merritton

Died – 12 April 1952 – at daughter's residence –Hamilton Beach

Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – O.C. – Section 'G'

Occupation – mason

Residence – Haight Street

Other – religion: Presbyterian, past president of Provincial Volunteer Firemen Assoc.

### **16. Robert STUART**

Mayor – 1921, 1922

Born – 22 November 1885 - Merritton

Parents: Charles Frederick and Elizabeth (nee MANN) STUART

Married – Hazel May RUBEL – 18 July 1923 - at Church of England Rectory in Welland

Died - \_\_\_\_\_ 1951 - \_\_\_\_\_, Lincoln County  
Buried - Ridgeway Memorial Cemetery, Ridgeway, Fort Erie  
Occupation – druggist – 131 Merritt Street  
Residence – 2 Elm Street  
Other - religion: Anglican

**17. Henry Nelson (Harry) BOYLE**

Mayor – 1923, 1924, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930  
Born – 20 August 1880 – Port Robinson, Thorold Township, Welland County  
Parents: William and Sarah (nee O’NEIL) BOYLE  
Married – Clara Malinda BUSCH – 16 November 1904 - at home of Mrs. F. BUSCH in Winger, Wainfleet Township, Welland County  
Died – 09 February 1946 – General Hospital, St. Catharines  
Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – N.C. – Section ‘L’  
Occupation – railway conductor (1904), coal (1918), labourer (1922)  
Residence – Maple Street (1918); 24 St. Peter Street (1935)  
Other – religion: Church of England

**18. Thomas FAIRBURNE**

Mayor – 1931, 1932, 1933  
Born – 4 May 1875 – Grantham Township, Lincoln County  
Parents: John Thomas and Josephine Margaret Letitia (nee MEAGHER) FAIRBURNE  
Married – Lilly Olivia WILSON (daughter of #7) - 8 August 1898 in St. Catharines  
Died – 09 April 1945 – General Hospital, St. Catharines  
Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – N.C. - Section ‘L’  
Occupation – foreman, cotton picker (1891), moulder (1898), teamster (1918)  
Residence – 176 Merritt Street (1935)  
Other – religion: Methodist; member of Masonic lodge

**19. John H. SCOTT**

Mayor – 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941  
Born – 4 May 1888 – Edinburgh, Scotland  
Parents: Walter and Bella (nee DOW) SCOTT  
Married - Helen ROBERTSON - 6 June 1913 in Merritton  
Died – 04 April 1975 – Trafalgar Hospital, Oakville  
Buried –Victoria Lawn Cemetery – N.C. – Section ‘S’  
Occupation – Musician, Millwright at Alliance Paper (25 years) then Thompson Products (10 years)  
Residence – 40 Almond Street (1941); Chestnut Street (1942); 118 Louth Street  
Other – came to Merritton c1911; religion: Presbyterian (member Knox Church)

**20. Frederick Oswald LEESON**

Mayor – 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955  
Born – 08 May 1910 - Merritton

Parents: Richard Oswald and Harriet E. (nee BARLEY) LEESON  
Married – Nora Eglinton FITZGERALD - 19 August 1935 in Merritton  
Died – 22 December 1981 – General Hospital, St. Catharines  
Buried – Old Lakeview Cemetery - Section ‘C’ – Thorold  
Occupation – assistant storekeeper Interlake Tissue; 9 years Clerk Treasurer of Stoney Creek; in 1960 became Clerk of Wentworth County 9<sup>th</sup> Division Court in Hamilton  
Residence – 74 Merritt Street (1942); 240 Merritt Street (1950); 41 Leeson Street (1962)  
Other – at age 31 was the youngest mayor in Canada in 1942; religion: Anglican

### **21. Leslie Herbert SKIPPER**

Mayor – 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950  
Born – January, 1911 – Fletcher, Raleigh Township, Kent County, Ontario  
Parents: Herbert and Daisy Rosetta (nee WHITE) SKIPPER  
Married – Verna Melissa ROBBINS - 18 July 1936 in Port Robinson, Thorold Township  
Died – 04 October 1979  
Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – N.C. – Section ‘D’  
Occupation – draftsman, then engineer at Hayes Steel Products  
Residence – 19 Oak (1940); 9 Smythe (1942 and 1950); 4 Haight (1962)  
Other – moved to Merritton in 1932; religion: United (member Elm Street Church)

### **22. Harley Marvin JOHNSON**

Mayor – 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 partial - resigned to become Town Clerk  
Born – 25 September 1914 – Mishawaka, Penn Township, St. Joseph County, Indiana  
Parents: Harley Calvin and Mary Ellen (nee ETHERINGTON) JOHNSON  
Married – Marie CAMPBELL - \_\_ October 1940 - Memorial United Church, St. Catharines  
Died – 03 August 1974 – General Hospital, Hamilton  
Buried – Victoria Lawn Cemetery – N.C. - Section ‘M’  
Occupation – worked at Alliance Paper Mill; City Bldg. Maintenance Supervisor and then licence inspector  
Residence – 11 Phelps Street (1940 through to 1973), 75 Westchester Avenue (1974)  
Other – religion: Anglican (member St. James Church); member Empire Lodge No.87 IOOF, Deputy Fire Chief of Merritton Fire Department

### **23. William Robert McINTOSH**

Mayor – 1960 partial – appointed upon resignation of Harley JOHNSON  
Born – 10 September 1917 - Merritton  
Parents: George Oliver and Laura (nee TAYLOR) McINTOSH  
Married – Mary Falconer WILSON - 6 September 1941  
Died – 18 March 1982 - Manistee, Manistee, Michigan, U.S.A.  
Buried – Old Lakeview Cemetery, Thorold  
Occupation – Real Estate with office at 296 Merritt Street; factory inspector for Department of Labour  
Residence – 4 Briarsdale Drive  
Other –

