

Advance Publicity for “Three Soldiers from Islington and the Origins of Remembrance Day”

This is the true story three men with strong ties to the village of Islington who participated in four of Canada’s wars. The Rev. R.W.E. Greene fought in the 1866 Fenian invasion and was later immortalized by humourist Stephen Leacock. Col. J.E.L. Streight fought the Boers, witnessed the first German poison gas attack in World War 1 and eventually became a Member of Parliament. Major Stewart B. East served with the 48th Highlanders in Italy and became the most decorated Canadian padre in World War 2. All three men went on to become pillars of the Islington community.

But our story is more than this. It’s also about how Remembrance Day originated when the veterans of the Boer War and World War 1 began to be honoured. We will also talk about the birth of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Richard Jordan is a former President of the Etobicoke Historical Society and a former **Toronto Star** local history columnist. His feature articles on historical subjects have also appeared in the **Saturday Star** and the **Sunday Star**.

The photos below show (left) Canon R.W.E. Greene, who fought in the 1866 Fenian Invasion and who was the inspiration for Stephen Leacock’s Rev. Drone, (centre) Col. J.E.L. Streight who survived the first German gas attack at St. Julien and later became an MP, and (right) Rev. Stewart B. East, padre of the 48th Highlanders during their heaviest fighting in Italy. All three men had a great impact on their community after their military service.

