

Editorial

There's a saying that a picture is worth a thousand words, but when it comes to historic photos, I'd say they're worth a whole lot more. What's in a photo isn't just an image itself, but the minutiae of daily life from an era long gone. These details help us see a part of history that may not otherwise make it into records or published history. Whether recovered photos of people and places, family photos of influential individuals or images of grave markers from out-of-the-way cemeteries, a visual record is a valuable piece of history that can be enjoyed for years to come.

Glen and Catherine's article *Carved In Stone*, includes interesting examples of early stone carving work and rare images related to the small businesses responsible. The photos they've collected also provide an example of the unique stones found in small country cemeteries. I was impressed by the detective work done by Catherine and Glen as they sought out examples of as many early, local carvers as possible, sifting through archives and hunting down rural cemeteries in person.

In Alan Noon's article, *The Disappearance of Harry Hines*, we learn how photos can provide answers to a mystery nearly forgotten. We also can clearly see a great example of the worth in restoring and identifying such a vast collection of historic photos. This article also demonstrates how the collections of photographers can provide unique insights into the history of a community.

Beverley Ronalds article *Before Eldon House: Lucy Ronalds Harris' background & upbringing*, puts a new lens on London's oldest residence by exploring the life of the woman who married into the Harris family. Lucy's inheritance was crucial to the major renovations to Eldon House during the late 1880s, ones which brought the home to the next level in both social standing and interior design. We learn some of the reasons behind Lucy's honest diary entries which show her unhappiness with life in London, Ontario and give us insight into the personalities behind her family portraits hanging in Eldon House.

In working with each of the authors on this volume of the *Historian* I am inspired and appreciative of the detailed research conducted by each of the authors. The dedication of these historians provides us with a better understanding of our history, and unearths unique facts about the past. Thank you to Glen, Catherine, Alan and Beverley for their work on these fascinating articles, their passion for history and especially the photos and ephemera collected for this volume of the *Historian*. I truly hope you enjoy it. Perhaps the next time you come across an old photo or visit a country graveyard you'll see it with a new perspective. Who knows, perhaps it will inspire you to investigate a mystery of your own.

Roxanne Lutz,
Editor