


# YESTERDAY

News from the Tavistock and District Historical Society

## Annual Meeting and Open House

Saturday, March 19, 2005

Most  
puzzling  
donation:   
*Brown  
Sugar Auger*



Heaviest  
donation:   
*Cast Iron  
Blacksmith  
Mandrel*

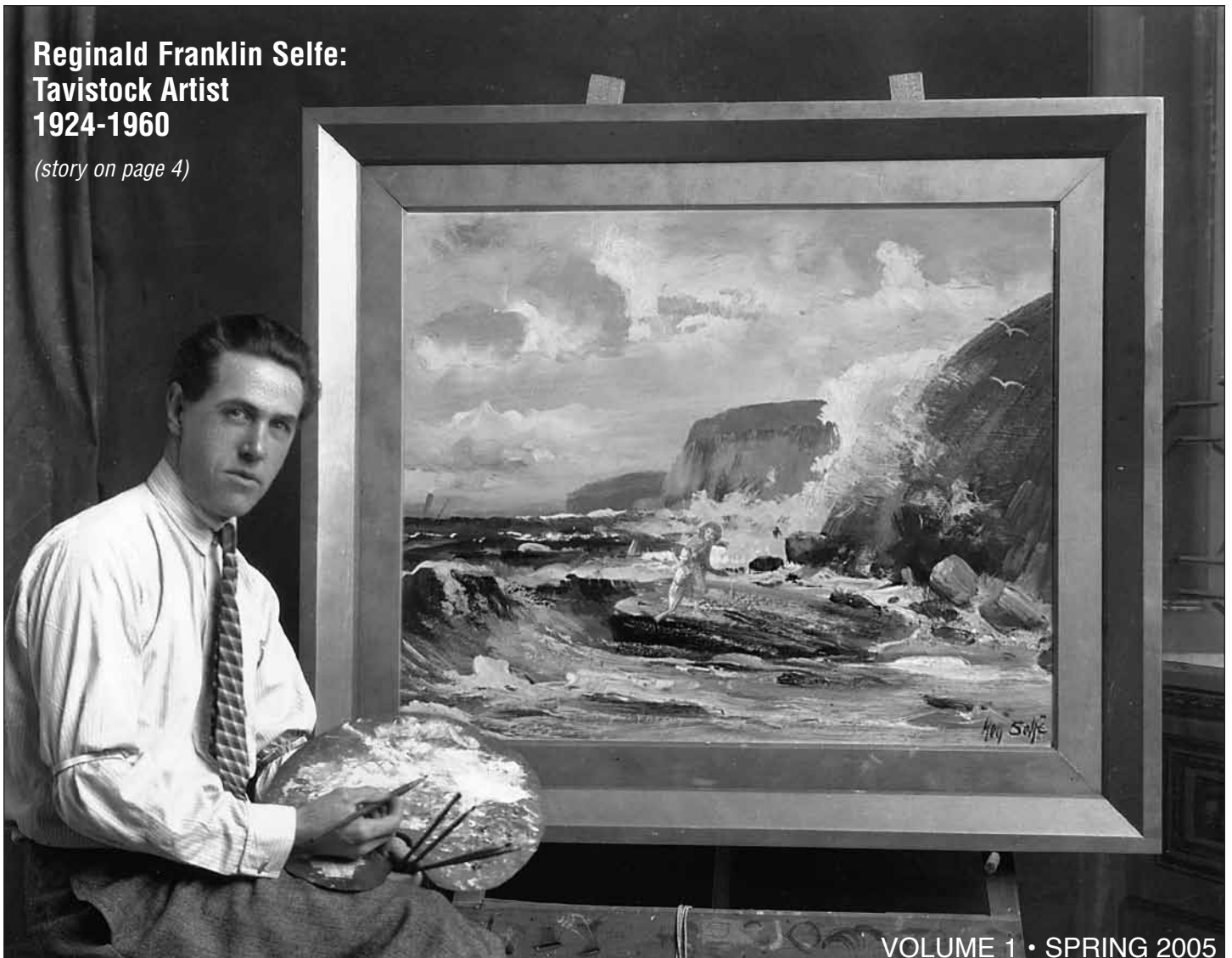


Smallest  
donation:   
*1968 Tavistock  
Public School  
lapel pin*



## Reginald Franklin Selfe: Tavistock Artist 1924-1960

(story on page 4)



## Tavistock & District Historical Society

### Executive:

Chairman: Bruce Halliday  
Secretary: Mary Nicklas  
Treasurer: Joyce Hill

### Directors:

Paul Bartlett  
Sherrill Bryant  
Bill Gladding  
Ed Pellow  
Susan Pellow  
Bob Rudy  
George Stock

### Members 2004:

Stan Boyd  
Ron Saunders

# Everything old is new again!

If you ask what's new at the museum and archives, the answer is everything! To date, over 300 items have been donated to the Historical Society to be catalogued, made available to the public, and displayed at various times.

Probably the heaviest article donated thus far is a cast iron cone mandrel that stands 40 inches tall. It was used by blacksmith Joe Lichti of Cassel. It was part of a group of items on display at the 2004 Tavistock Fall Fair. The other items included an "s-shaped" root pulper for chopping turnips, a cast iron smelting pot, a wooden boot jack used for removing footwear, and a most unusual pair of handmade climbing spurs that belonged to Clemens Yeck of Cassel.

Possibly the oldest donation to date is a cast iron baking mold used at the G. H. Kaufman Sr. Hotel in Sebastopol and the most puzzling, a brown sugar auger with wooden handle used to loosen

the contents of barrels. A 1968 Tavistock Public School lapel pin is probably the smallest donation in the collection along with a school ring. If you're looking for a useful item from the early days, the yellow crocheted chamber pot silencer fits the category.

A donation that came from Carl Wettlaufer of Minnesotav, U.S.A. includes a compact disc (CD) and printout listing members of 21 branches of the Wettlaufer family. Many other genealogical books, family trees and a comprehensive listing of death notices is also available.

To continue doing all this, however, we need volunteers. And that's where you can help ... even if it's just for an hour or two. Please contact any one of the persons listed in the directory and let them know what area of history you are interested in or leave your name, address and phone number at the Museum and Archives and someone will contact you.



### Interesting fact:

*The wording on the Tavistock Citizen's Band drum was painted by Reginald Selfe for \$1.50 in June of 1927.*

### yes-ter-day:

1. *n.* the day which preceded today.  
(*rhet.*) recent time  
2. *adv.* on or during yesterday (*rhet.*) at or during a recent time

## Museum/Archives opens

Several unique items relating to Tavistock's past came to light as donations to the Tavistock and District Historical Society were accepted in the former PUC building on the first morning of operation, Saturday, 7 August 2004. From

a portrait of MPP Valentine Stock to a baking powder can from the Emerson Weitzel general store, there was enough to keep members of the society busy cataloguing, filing, and using their museum/

archive skills.

A small, but colourful, commemorative plate from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sebastopol, was brought in and an ornate ring box from Staebler Jewellers. A farm sale bill (poster) and a farm deed also arrived as well as the confirmation certificate for former industrialist Adam Schaefer.

There was also an ashtray from a Harrington business and a license plate bracket from Schaefer's Sunoco Station. A large wall hanging of the Lord's Prayer came from the attic of the former Baptist Church in Tavistock, now the Men's Club Building.

## Mission Statement:

*To collect, preserve, research, exhibit and interpret the history of Tavistock and it's immediate surrounding area.*

**This includes oral history, archived material, museum displays, operations of the facility, and to make it accessible for public use.**

*Special thanks to the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock for the use of the former PUC building at 37 Maria Street in Tavistock.*

# History comes alive here in Tavistock!

A most notable donation of the past year came from David Stock, Q.C. of RR 6, Woodstock. Along with the portrait of his grandfather, Valentine Stock, Liberal MPP for South Perth from 1902-04 and 1908-11, was a house plan for the residence built by the MPP at 18 Maria Street in Tavistock. The plan includes a tissue paper original drawing, an ink print on linen paper and two blueprints. The plan is for the Queen Anne style brick home built in 1905 over a one-and-a-half storey frame house. The home features contrasting building materials in the choice of red brick with grey sandstone window dressings and foundation along with different sized and shaped windows.



Photo courtesy of The Tavistock Gazette

**Above:** Committee members George Stock (left), Sherrill Bryant, Paul Bartlett, Mary Nicklas and Bruce Halliday compare 1905 blueprints of 18 Maria Street in front of the home in Tavistock.

## War veterans of Tavistock and area

One of the projects being undertaken during this “Year of the Veteran” will be a comprehensive list of veterans who, over the course of their lifetime, were involved in the business or community life of the area. It will not be restricted to Tavistock and area veterans only.

Fact and Fantasy: A History of Tavistock and District (pages 85, 86, 87) by Carl Seltzer gives an overview of the “sons and daughters” who “served on many fronts, at home and abroad, on land, on sea and in the air.”

Names of forty First World War (1914-1918) veterans are named on a plaque in the Tavistock Library that was erected by the Women’s Institute.

With regard to World War II veterans, Mr. Seltzer states, “No complete and accurate list of all who joined the colours is available. The following one has been gleaned from the Tweedsmuir Book, which secured names from the various churches, and from the Honour Roll maintained by the Principals of the Public and Continuation Schools

and inscribed by the late Reginald Selfe, and from letters written to the Men’s Club in thanks for (items) presented to each enlistee.”

There are one hundred and fifty-two listed for service in WWII noting five who died in action and three who died in service. In addition, the names of fifty others were listed as reservists with the Oxford Rifles or Veteran’s Guard.

A photo gallery and as many details as can be obtained will be compiled into a Veteran’s Record at the Museum/Archives.

The April meeting of the Tavistock and District Historical Society will be dedicated to compiling this list of war veterans from Tavistock and area.



**Cpl. Francis Weitzel: A38237**  
Killed in action:  
Buron, Normandy  
July 8, 1944

**\$5.00** *That’s all it takes to become a member of the Tavistock and District Historical Society*



## The Life and Work of Reginald Franklin Selfe

(reprinted from the *Tavistock Gazette*, November 1, 2000)

For the Spring semester, 1994, Guelph University student and former Tavistock resident Tim Mosher completed a monumental project entitled “The Life and Work of Reginald Franklin Selfe” as his selected topic in fine arts.

Tim’s research took him closer to the artist than anyone had come in the 34 years since his death by way of former friends, colleagues and students. Along the way he compiled a catalogue of some 142 known paintings by Mr. Selfe along with a history of his life and work.

According to Tim Mosher’s research, Reginald Franklin Selfe was born in Brighton, East Sussex, England on July 30, 1888 but was raised in Guildford, Surrey, where he returned in 1960. He had his early training there and was a member of the British Watercolour Society. He came to Canada in 1924 with the Hotson family who owned a shoe store on Hope Street West. The J.K. Lemp family, who had sponsored his immigration, allowed him to paint and teach art classes in the photo studio above the pharmacy for many years.

Living a simple life, he rented living space in several locations around the village (the Glasgow Warehouse and the Masonic Hall) and boarded with others like Fred and Anna Funk, Howard Engel, Gott. and Carrie Waldie, and Stan and Beth Schippling.

In the thirty-six years he worked in and around Tavistock, he produced hundreds, maybe thousands of paintings and taught art classes to many grateful young students. He returned to England and his two sisters early in 1960, but passed away November 2, 1960. He is now buried in the cemetery in his hometown of Guildford.

Themes of Selfe’s paintings over the years include urban England, thatched cottages, English villages and countryside, seascapes, lakes, Canadian landscapes such as winter, the Maritimes, wilderness, still life and well-known Ontario landmarks such as the Elora Gorge and the Muskoka region. His works range from 4x6” postcards to very large 39”x5 ft. canvasses as well as some early works in ink wash and silk screen.

He was known for frequent bicycle trips into the countryside where he would set up his stool and easel and paint for hours on end. He would also set up camp in local spots to complete his work as well as teach art and perspective at Boy Scout camps. The Rotary Club sponsored art classes for two years and Mr. Selfe held private lessons at different times and locations over the years.

“Reg. Selfe came to Canada as a young painter with hopes of finding a good life in the quiet countryside of Ontario ... even though Reg. Selfe finished his days in his native country, most of his work remains here and reminds us of his life as an artist.”

The inscription on his tombstone reads “In unfading memory of dear Reg.” His paintings and memory will never fade as long as Tavistock residents remember the artist they called their own.

(Cover photo of Reg Selfe courtesy of The Lemp Studio Collection, Tavistock)

**If you have a Reginald Franklin Selfe painting and would like it included in the archived catalogue of his works, please contact Bill Gladding, editor/publisher, The Tavistock Gazette at 519-655-2341 or e-mail: [gazette@tavistock.on.ca](mailto:gazette@tavistock.on.ca)**



Reg Selfe (centre) with friends J. Birkholtz (left) and Fred Schaefer.

### Tavistock & District Historical Society

37 Maria Street,  
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Tavistock, Ontario,  
Canada N0B 2R0

**MUSEUM HOURS:**  
Saturdays  
10am-12 noon