

A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

by Ken Weber



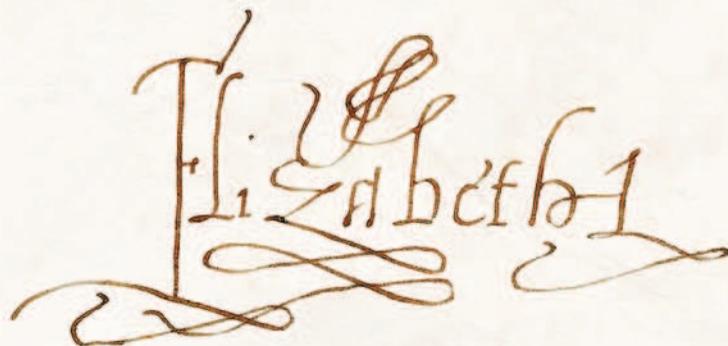
Good Queen Bess Herself?

AN IN THE HILLS MINI MYSTERY

“Somebody get Wayne and Steve. They have to see this!”

Wayne and Steve were the curator and chief archivist respectively of the Dufferin County Museum and Archives. “This” was a letter, a very old letter. The paper, frayed along the edges and torn in one corner, was yellowed with age and even darker in the several creases. And it was fragile. Without the protection of the two thick panes of glass enclosing it, the letter would surely have crumbled into tiny fragments.

But what excited the group standing around Marilyn’s reception desk at DCMA was not so much the apparent age of the letter; it was the signature at the bottom.



This letter, if authentic, bore the well-known signature of none other than the first Queen Elizabeth – “Good Queen Bess,” contemporary of Shakespeare, daughter of Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII! This letter was over four hundred years old!

The man who’d brought it stood quietly at the edge of the group of excited staff and volunteers. He’d appeared at the museum unannounced and simply said that he was from Calgary and that his great-grandparents had pioneered in Mulmur Township. The letter had been in the family for centuries and because he was the last of his line, he felt it appropriate that DCMA should have this valuable piece because of the family’s connection with Dufferin.

Wayne and Steve appeared at the same time, both rushing to see the exciting new acquisition. Together they bent over the letter and together, in no more than a few seconds, they looked at each other, nodded, and walked away in disappointed silence, shaking their heads.

What did Wayne and Steve see immediately that showed the letter was not authentic?



Border Challenge in Erin

When the new Continuation School opened in Erin in 1924, students taking geography were somewhat surprised to find the following “Border Test” on the blackboard on the very first day of classes.

Would you have passed the test?

A

How many Canadian provinces do not have a border with the United States?

B

What Canadian provinces have a border with just one other province?

C

(Read this one carefully!) How many U.S. states can you name whose land mass touches the border with Canada?

D

How many Canadian provinces and U.S. states border on Lake Erie?

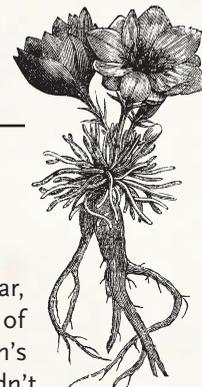
E

Of all the provinces in Canada and states in the U.S. A., which one has the longest name (most letters)?

F

How many Canadian provinces and U.S. states together have names which end in the letter ‘a’?

Ephraim’s Sales of Bitterroot Balm



Although he passed by only once a year, nearly every family on the sideroads of these hills instantly recognized Ephraim’s horse and wagon. And for the few who didn’t, the faded sign on the wagon box quickly answered the question of “who’s coming down the lane?” Ephraim made a good living peddling homemade medicine from farm to farm, but his best ever year was 1913, just before World War I. That year, he racked up total sales in Caledon Township that were only \$100 lower than what he sold in neighbouring Erin Township, where he sold \$200 worth more than he had managed to sell in East Luther where in turn, the total sales had been \$250 lower than in Melancthon, although in Melancthon, total sales in 1913 were \$300 higher than they’d been in Mulmur.

If Ephraim brought in \$400 in the township where his sales were lowest of all, what were his total sales in each of the above townships in 1913?

Walking to Bolton

On the first anniversary of Confederation Day, Abner’s only horse became lame and for the next six months Abner had to walk to Bolton. Since he lived quite far away he went to Bolton only once a week and always planned his visits very carefully. On each visit he took maple syrup with him to sell to a distributor on King Road who in turn sold it at a market in Toronto. Abner also made a deposit or withdrawal at the bank each visit, always bought a newspaper, and would then go to chat with his friend, the blacksmith. On every second trip into town Abner got a haircut.

The barber was always closed on Mondays. The distributor was always away in Toronto on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The bank was closed on Saturday and Sunday.

On what day of the week did Abner go to Bolton?



Narrow It Down!

Use the following clues to determine an eight-letter word that one might use while visiting a beautiful provincial park like Forks of the Credit or Mono Cliffs.

The first letter of this eight-letter word does not appear in HILLSBURGH or GRAND VALLEY, but it does appear in JESSOPVILLE.

The second and eighth letters appear in each of BELFOUNTAIN, ALBION and AMARANTH.

The third and seventh letters are side by side in the very middle of the alphabet.

The fifth letter appears in both HILLSBURGH and GRAND VALLEY, but not in JESSOPVILLE.

The sixth letter is a vowel and is the same as the second and eighth letters.

By now you should know what the fourth letter is.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8