

A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

by Ken Weber

AN IN THE HILLS MINI MYSTERY



Crossing the Credit on a Rope

In the spring of 1642, just downstream from where Cataract stands today, a small band of French soldiers exploring south from the tiny mission at Sainte-Marie had strung a simple rope bridge across a gorge carved out of the landscape by what would one day be called the Credit River. During the following summer of that year, in the dark of midnight, two missionaries and two natives from the Huron village near Sainte-Marie came upon this bridge in a very anxious state for they were being followed by a hostile Iroquois war party. The travellers began to cross but immediately discovered the bridge could hold only two people at a time. And because of the darkness, whoever was crossing needed to take the single lantern the group carried.

The younger of the two Huron natives could cross in five minutes and the older in seven. One of the priests could cross in eleven minutes, but his companion, because of an infected foot, needed twenty.

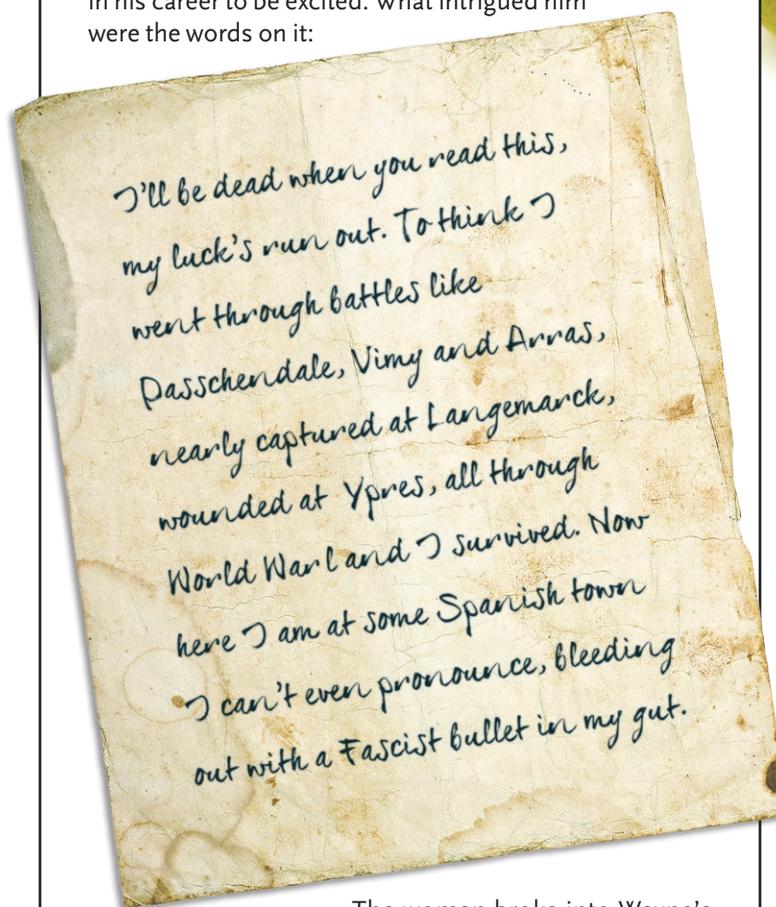
The Iroquois war party was an hour away.

Given the conditions described above, did the four get across before the hostile natives arrived?

A Wartime Letter at DCMA

“You’re supposed to know what this kind of letter is worth, right? What they said at the War Museum in Ottawa is I got to get an opinion from two experts before they’ll consider buying anything. You’re the first expert to see it, so what do you think?”

The woman was speaking to Wayne Townsend, curator of the Dufferin County Museum, but he barely heard her, absorbed as he was by the frayed and yellowing paper she’d put on his desk. It wasn’t the age of the sheet that intrigued him. He’d seen too many old documents in his career to be excited. What intrigued him were the words on it:



The woman broke into Wayne’s thoughts. “There’s another page,” she said. “I got it here. My great uncle, he was. A Canadian you know. Got killed in that Spanish civil war or rebellion or whatever it was.”

For the first time, Wayne took his eyes off the letter. He really couldn’t decide if the woman was a naïve con-artist or simply naïve.

Why does Wayne have doubts?

There’s a Ten in Each Six

Each sentence or phrase below describes a six-letter word that has the word ten in it, as in ‘listen’ or ‘intend.’ What is the word in each of the ten challenges below?



foul and spoiled

defeated

a plan or purpose

soft, warm and gentle

a guarantee of position

You can play singles or doubles in this game.

It violates one’s olfactory sense.

to increase the rate at which you do something

to show up

You may do this in fear or embarrassment.

Harness Parts in the Hillsburgh General Store

At Hillsburgh’s first general store established in the 1820s, owner William Howe made certain to stock replacement parts for the leather harness farmers used to hitch up their teams of work horses. Howe’s neighbour Nathaniel Rozell, who farmed on Erin Township’s 7th Line, came to the store to buy a halter and a hame strap. The two items came to a total of \$1.10, with the halter costing one dollar more than the hame strap.

How much was the hame strap?



An In The Hills Two Minute In-Your-Head Challenge!

Without using pen and paper, see if you can correctly answer YES or NO to each of these questions in two minutes or less.



1

The odd numbers in the sequence 58432169 add up to 17.

2

In the alphabet, the letter one place before the letter two places after the letter F is the letter G.

3

If three dogs uttered a single bark at each other, there would be six barks.

4

If you have four-fifths of \$60 and spend \$21 you will have \$26 left.

5

If Monday is the 8th day of the month, the 3rd day was a Wednesday.

6

There is the name of a tree contained in the sentence “He raced around an empty parking lot.”

7

Max is shorter than Libby and Eleanor is taller than Max so Max is shortest of the three.

8

If you write all the numbers from 1 to 20 you will write the number 1 twelve times.