



THE COBALT LODGE

Newsletter of the Cobalt Historical Society

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Historic Cobalt Legacy Fund.

The Cobalt Historical Society is grateful to be the recipient of \$5,173.00 from the Historic Cobalt Legacy Fund. The fund is administered by the Temiskaming Foundation.



Maggie Wilson CHS chair, center with Temiskaming Foundation member Jack Birtch and Agnico Eagle Mines Limited representative Louise Grondin

Spreading the Word

This year we will be promoting the Heritage Silver Trail by providing rack cards at tourist information booths, hotels, motels, and at local businesses and other public facilities. The colourful two-sided card directs visitors to our downtown office and to our website. The Cobalt Historical Society is grateful for SMC Canada's sponsorship of this project. A copy of the rack card is enclosed with your newsletter. If you can think of somewhere else we can place these closer to your area, let us know and we'll get them to you. The farther we can spread these, the better.

The Stadelman Family in Cobalt

by Bruce W. Taylor

There are lots of stories about the miners in Cobalt. But for every miner and mine owner, there were probably three or four hoteliers, merchants, doctors, and other people who provided the services that kept the miners (and the mines) going. In the early days of the camp, there was a colourful array of people from all parts of the world; Chinese, Syrians, Finns, Eastern Europeans, Jews, and Canadians from across the country. Their stories are just as important and interesting as those of the miners, and add to the fascinating history of the town.

One European country that doesn't feature prominently in the history of Temiskaming and in particular, Cobalt, is Switzerland. Very few Swiss felt compelled to immigrate to Canada in the early years of the 20th Century, so it is unusual to find a family from that country turning up in the area in 1903.

John Joseph (J.J.) Stadelman (born in Switzerland in 1850), and his wife, Lena Frankhauser (born in 1853, also in Switzerland) immigrated to Canada when both were young newlyweds. They settled in the town of Shakespeare, in Perth County in Southwestern Ontario, where they lived for the next 23 years, raising ten children. J.J. was employed as a blacksmith by the Grand Trunk Railway.

In 1903, the Stadelman family came to Temiskaming, attracted by the potential of the newly-opened district. Most of the children, Louise, William, Larry, Julia (May), and Ivan accompanied their parents to New Liskeard. Daughters Bertha and Agnes arrived three years later, while Albert arrived from Chicago in 1910. All of them, with the exception of Louise and William lived in Cobalt at one time or another.

Not all of the ten Stadelman children migrated to Temiskaming. The second oldest, Minnie, married Peter Maddon and lived in London, Ontario, while John (Jack), a blacksmith, remained in Shakespeare.

It must have been a cultural shock for the eighteen-year old Louise and her brothers, coming from the lush farming area of southwestern Ontario to the small frontier village of New Liskeard. The year of their arrival marks the year that the town, which had grown considerably over the past three years, was incorporated. It also marks the year that silver was accidentally discovered by railway contractors working on the T&NO Railway near Cobalt Lake.

The first to marry was Louise Stadelman, who married William A. Taylor in 1906. W.A. or "Will" as he was known was the son of George Taylor the founder of the George Taylor Hardware company, which by 1906 had stores in Cobalt and New Liskeard. Will was in charge of the New Liskeard store, while his brother, Ralph was in charge in Cobalt. Over the years, Louise was a frequent visitor to Cobalt, as both her own family, and that of her husband lived there.

Next was Albert Stadelman, who married a New Liskeard girl, Ola Gertrude Lott in Toronto in 1911. They settled in a house on Lakeshore Drive in New Liskeard. Albert partnered with his brother Larry in the stationery stores in New Liskeard and Cobalt.

Eugene Clemens (known as Ivan) Stadelman lived in New Liskeard until 1915, when he was given the responsibility of managing the family's stationery store in Timmins. He married Lorena Drouin in Timmins in 1918, and later moved to Burlington.

Julia (also known as May) lived in the family home in Cobalt until 1928, when she married William (also known as Wally) Taylor, no relation to the hardware Taylors. They lived in Kirkland Lake until her death in 1948.

Stadelman's Stationery Store in New Liskeard

John J. Stadelman realized soon after he arrived, that there was a need for a stationery store in New Liskeard, and with the help of his sons, opened a store on Whitewood Avenue. Most of the family, including Larry and Bertha, worked with their father in the store.



W. A. Taylor and Louise Stadelman- 1906

The stationery business did very well in New Liskeard, and by 1909, J.J.'s sons, Larry and Albert formed a partnership to buy out their father. They then changed the name of the business to Stadelman Brothers Stationery. Because they were both hard-working men, with ambitions to expand the business, one of the first things they did was purchase Mike Abraham's two stores. Abraham, a pioneer merchant in New Liskeard owned several stores on Armstrong Street, and another in Cobalt on Silver Street. Having completed the sale, Larry and Albert then made a decision to move their New Liskeard store into the more spacious former Abraham store.

Albert was responsible for running the New Liskeard store while Larry moved to Cobalt and was in charge of the store there. At their New Liskeard store, Stadelman Brothers were reputed to be the first local merchants to produce and sell ice cream, preceding the famous S.D Eplett & Sons company which started producing ice cream on a large scale in 1914.

Tragic Death of Lena Stadelman

Fires were common in the early days in Temiskaming, when homes and businesses were heated by, and cooking was done on wood, coal-oil, or coal stoves. On May 20, 1911, John Stadelman's wife, Lena was attempting to light a coal-oil stove in her home on Beavis Terrace in New Liskeard, when her clothes caught fire and she was badly burned. Frantic to put out the fire and relieve her suffering, she ran down the banks of the adjacent Wabi River and jumped in. Although rescued from the cold waters of the river, and taken to the local hospital, she died on May 30 of the burns she received. She was 58 years old, and the mother of ten children.

Stadelman Brothers Stationery Store, Cobalt

The store in Cobalt that the Stadelman brothers purchased from Mike Abraham was located at 24 Silver Street, and was formerly a florist shop. Today that is the site of the Cobalt Post office. After a few years, the New Liskeard store was sold, and the partnership dissolved. Albert and his wife moved to Hamilton, and later to Toronto where he operated a music store. He died in 1949 in Toronto.

Larry then became the sole proprietor of the Cobalt store (the first stationery and fancy goods store in Cobalt), which he renamed The L. Stadelman Company. Sometime between August, 1921 and April 1922,

he purchased the Nipissing Stores Block, a business block on the south-east corner of Prospect Avenue and Silver Street. This block was renamed the Stadelman Block when he moved the stationery store into his new premises (No. 12, Prospect Ave.). He continued to operate out of this Block until his death in 1951. Cobalt's Memorial Garden Park now marks the location of the Stadelman Block.

As a bachelor with a thriving business in Cobalt, Larry Stadelman boarded for a few years in a room at the Carr Block (owned by Milton Carr) beside the Bank of Commerce on the Square. (The Carr Block burned down in 1912). He later purchased a home at 57 Nickel Street where he and his spinster sisters, Bertha, Agnes and May lived. .



The Stadelman Stationery Store (left) in the Stadelman Block – corner of Prospect and Silver Streets- 1952 (John Hunt photo, Paul Penna Library Collection)

His father, Joseph, whose health had started to fail, moved to Cobalt in 1920 to live with his family. He died in Cobalt four years later. His funeral was in the Roman Catholic Church in Cobalt, and burial in the family plot in New Liskeard's Pioneer Cemetery.

Larry's sister, Bertha worked in the Stationery business, while his youngest sister, May, worked as a stenographer for the Northern Canada Supply Company. Bertha came from Shakespeare to New Liskeard in 1906, and was a clerk in the stationery store there until 1910, when she joined her brother in Cobalt, working with him until failing health forced her to retire. She never married, and lived on Nickel Street with her brother and another sister, Agnes who died in 1943. After Agnes' death, Bertha moved to London, where she lived with her elder sister, Minnie (Mrs. Peter Maddon). During her stay in the north, she made many

friends in Cobalt and New Liskeard, and in 1947, she and Minnie visited Cobalt and spent an entire summer in the silver town, renewing acquaintances and visiting old friends.

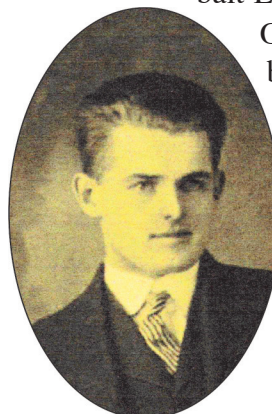
Bertha died on August 21, 1950. Her funeral was held at the Buffam Funeral Chapel in Haileybury with burial in the family plot in the New Liskeard Pioneer Cemetery.

The town of Timmins was booming after the gold mines started producing, and Larry Stadelman established a branch of the stationery store there in January, 1916. His brother, Eugene Clemens (Ivan) Stadelman was designated to run the store. Ivan married Lorena Drouin in Timmins in 1918, but when the store was sold in July, 1918, the couple and their young son, did not stay long in Timmins, moving to Burlington where he worked as an accountant.

Larry Stadelman in Cobalt

Larry was quite athletic in his younger years, playing hockey and baseball in both New Liskeard and Cobalt. However, his favourite sport was tennis and he was President of the Cobalt Tennis Club. He personally took on the responsibility of maintaining Cobalt's tennis courts at Sasaginaga Lake.

Like many of the merchants that settled in Cobalt, he was very community-minded. He was one of the first to make a substantial donation towards the construction of the Memorial Arena, he was a Justice of the Peace for many years, and, like his neighbour and friend on Nickel Street, Ralph Taylor (manager of the George Taylor Hardware Store on Silver Street), was a Past-President and charter member of the Cobalt Kiwanis Club. Larry was the author of a well-known poem, "*Little Old Town of Cobalt*" (written in 1924) that was featured in our October 2017 issue of *The Cobalt Lode*.



Larry Stadelman (Date unknown)

On July 20, 1951, Larry Stadelman became ill while working in his shop, and was taken to hospital. He died shortly after. He was 60 years old. His funeral was at the Cobalt United Church, and he was buried in the family plot in the New Liskeard. His obituary in the *Temiskaming Speaker* noted that during the 41 years that he lived in Cobalt, he had become one of Cobalt's best known merchants.

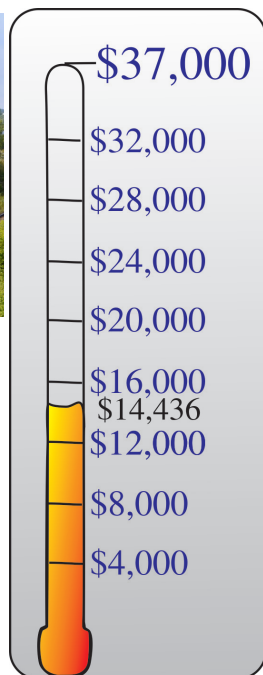


Fund Raising Update

GREAT news regarding our fundraiser to fix the roof on the Right-of-Way Mine! We are now set up to accept your donations online! If you wish to send us an Interac e-transfer from your bank, please use our email

chs@heritagesilvertrail.ca

If you are local to Cobalt, your donations (cash or cheque payable to *Cobalt Historical Society*) can be left at the book store downtown, 50 Silver Street, across from the Fraser.



Cobalt High School Reunion 2018

The 2018 Cobalt High School Reunion will take place Friday, August 3 to Sunday, August 5. A brief schedule of events includes a meet and greet games night/ karaoke at the Miners Tavern Friday night, Saturday museum tours, Historic Legacy Fund display, memorabilia displays, mini putt tournament, camping at the Cobalt Lake Park, barbecue get together at Bass Lake (swim, canoe rides, food), a dinner at the Community Hall with entertainment, pancake breakfast at the Golden Age Club and possible inclusive service at St. James Anglican Church. Courage-Honour-Service!!!

If anyone has memorabilia, please bring it to the reunion. This event includes all years, staff and students of CHS.

Anyone wishing to pre-register for the 2018 Cobalt High School Reunion should email Linda Leo Alkema at chsreunion.linda@gmail.com so we can get an idea of how many people are coming for the dinner specifically.

FaceBook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Cobalt-High-School-Reunion-2018-465481773814193/>

Selected Chapters of Temiskaming Heritage Chapter 2 NOT coming 2018

We had had two cancellations to the lineup for this year's symposium. We considered finding replacements, but we felt we did not have the time to find someone with suitable material that has not already been presented or published.

We cancelled the Symposium for 2018, and begin working on the 2019 event straight away. By giving ourselves adequate lead time, we can canvass our networks for speakers and give them enough time to develop talks for the coming years. It has been suggested that we hold the event every other year, and the Board thought that idea has merit.

We have booked the Golden Age Club, 22 Argentite Street, Cobalt for our upcoming Symposium on June 1st, 2019.

Save the date.

In 2018, Agnico Eagle will perform no additional work on trails' sites other than the projects currently on the books from 2017. How all this will change in light of Agnico Eagle's plans to divest itself of Cobalt properties has yet to be learned. Full story at: http://www.mining.com/web/canadian-miner-agnico-divest-cobalt-assets-sells-gold-interests/?utm_source=digest-en-mining-180426&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=digest

Submissions for the Newsletter are most welcome. So if you have some piece of history to share please let us know.

Membership Renewals

We hope you have renewed your 2018 membership. We hope you will continue with us. We're looking to accomplish bigger and better things. If you've lost the form, they are available for download from the website. The Newsletter will only be mailed to those who have renewed.

Between newsletters, stay current with our website and Facebook page.