



A 1915 picture of 1st Oshawa now 23 year old Scoutmaster, Samuel Edward Mack Soanes (Showing 6 years of Scout Leader Service and Military Hospital Attendant/Stretcher Bearer award-crest).



George W. McLaughlin 1869-1942

George William McLaughlin, born 17 Feb 1869, and the older brother of Robert Samuel (born September 8, 1871) and the Vice President and Sales Manager of the 1907 McLaughlin Motor Works, Oshawa the forerunner of General Motors; (when his younger brother Robert was President and later of the 1919 General Motors Canada) until George retired in 1924 to return to his family's farm. George McLaughlin donated the Athol Street Scout Hall building in 1942 and a Cabin Camp for the 7th Oshawa Scout Troop. This 7th Oshawa cabin was built on the Nesbit farm, on the east side of Ritson Road. The George McLaughlin farm was one concession south at 261 Simoce St, Oshawa. George William McLaughlin died on 10 October 1942 and is interred in the Oshawa Union Cemetery so he never saw his 7th Oshawa Scout Camp Donation completed in 1943.

Samuel Edward Mack Soanes was born on June 15, 1892 in Lindsay, Ontario. The 1st Oshawa Scout Group was founded in 1909 just two years after the birth of the Scouting movement in England by Lt. General Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell. Mack Soanes was the Secretary and later Treasurer of the Oshawa YMCA and the first Scoutmaster of this 1st Oshawa Scout Group. George McLaughlin was also the Secretary and Treasurer of the McLaughlin Motor Works and the Assistant Scoutmaster of this 1909 Scout Group (actually George McLaughlin would have been the Scoutmaster and Mack Soanes the Assistant because Mack was only 17 years old in 1909). In later years, in the 1920's Mack Soanes was the Post Master of the Indian River Post Office. By 1928, JM & Mack Soanes owned a Grocery Store on Alice Street. Mack Soanes lived at 295 Richmond Street East, Oshawa, in the shadow of the General Motors office building. Mack later owned a convenience store within walking distance of his home. Samuel Edward Mack Soanes died on October 13, 1942 at his Oshawa home and is buried in the Christian Cemetery, Little Britain north of Port Perry. (George McLaughlin died on 10 October 1942 and Mack Soanes died 13 October 1942, only 3 days apart.) (Robert S. McLaughlin's knowledge of and interest in Oshawa Scouting in 1909 came from his brother George, Mack Soanes, and the T. Eaton Oshawa Knitting factory manager Colonel William Fletcher Eaton, the Oshawa Boy Scout District Commissioner).

7th OSHAWA



HERE'S THE FINE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE 7TH OSHAWA (ST. GEORGE'S) TROOP. THE BUILDING WAS DONATED BY GENERAL MOTORS LTD. IT IS LOCATED ON 75 ACRES OF FARM LAND LOANED THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF A LOCAL FARMER. IT HAS BUNKS FOR 30 BOYS, OPEN FIREPLACE WITH HAND-WROUGHT IRON ACCESSORIES.

George William McLaughlin, born 1869, the older brother of Robert Samuel (born September 8, 1871) and the Vice President of General Motors Canada (when his younger brother Robert was President of GM Canada) build and furnished this building and Camp for the 7th Oshawa Scout Troop. This 7th Oshawa cabin was built on the Nesbit farm, on the east side of Ritson Road. The George McLaughlin farm was one concession south on Simcoe Street. George William McLaughlin died on 10 October 1942 and never saw his Scouting Donation completed in 1943. George W. McLaughlin also donated in 1942 the Athol Street Scout Hall building. The 7th Oshawa had been meeting and attending Church at the St. Georges Anglican Church on 39 Athol Street. During WW2 when this Church was being renovated these 7th Oshawa Scouts went to the George W. McLaughlin donated Scout Hall that was built on Athol St. between Simcoe and Centre Streets, on the north side. This old Athol Street Scout Hall was demolished in 1958, and this location is now used as a municipal parking lot. The 7th Oshawa used the Athol Street Scout Hall when their St. George's church hall was being renovated but only for a short period of time during WW2. The 7th Oshawa, owned a truck, which they purchased themselves, (nicknamed Herc) to collect newspapers, as a fundraiser. The 7th Oshawa held their summer camps, at Camp Samac, and Haliburton. General Motors supplied a truck to carry their equipment and supplies to Camp. In later years General Motors supplied a truck to Oshawa District to haul supplies and equipment for other District Groups, to Camp Samac and Haliburton Adventure Base Camp.

Athol Street West Scout Hall



22 Boy Scout Hall - 1958.

On north side of Athol Street West. This building is the same as picture No. 20 after brick veneering. It was demolished so that the land could be used as a parking lot in 1958.

On the South side of Athol Street West was the Oshawa Scout Hall. This building was donated by George W. McLaughlin in 1942 and demolished in 1958 to make a parking lot.

Scouting started in a barn on the outskirts of Oshawa in 1909 but was later meeting in the stables of George W. McLaughlin. The Boy Scout Movement was incorporated as "The Boy Scout Association" throughout the British Commonwealth by Royal Charter granted by King George V in 1912. Scouting came to Canada in the spring of 1908 - a just month after the book "Scouting for Boys" was published in England. (The Canadian General Council of the Boy Scout Association was incorporated by an act of the Canadian Parliament on June 12, 1914.) In 1910 Charles A. Lander, George Harrison, and George W. McLaughlin formed an Advisory committee to prepare an application for affiliation with The Boy Scout Association Provincial office in Toronto. When the number of Scouts increased George and Sam McLaughlin allowed this expanding Scout Troop to meet in the original offices of the McLaughlin Carriage Company 2 nights a week. By April 1911, Oshawa Mayor John Gibson allowed the use of City Hall Council Chambers for Boy Scout parades and an application on October 15th 1911 for the formation of the 1st Oshawa Scout troop that now had 19 patrols of 170 boys and Leaders. Mack Soanes the original Troop Scouter and Scoutmaster was employed by the George L Lander Plumbing Co. on King Street. It was in the Lander Hardware store run by Oshawa Scout Committee member Charles A. Lander (the brother of George L Lander) where Mack Soanes was employed. Mack Soanes was next employed as the Boy's Work Secretary in the Oshawa YMCA building that was then located at the site of the Oshawa Post Office. On January 20th, 1912 the 1st Oshawa Scout troop was approved by Provincial Commissioner Harry G. Hammond and the 1ST Oshawa Scout Troop was now meeting at the Oshawa YMCA.

Samuel Edward Mack Soanes and Scouting in Oshawa

Do you have a copy of the Muster or Nominal Rolls of the 116th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force that was formed or organized at Uxbridge, Ontario on 22 December 1915 and was disbanded on 15 September 1920 but is perpetuated by The Ontario Regiment (RCAC) ? I would like to know more information about Samuel Edward Mack Soanes from this Muster Roll with his name on it from 1916?

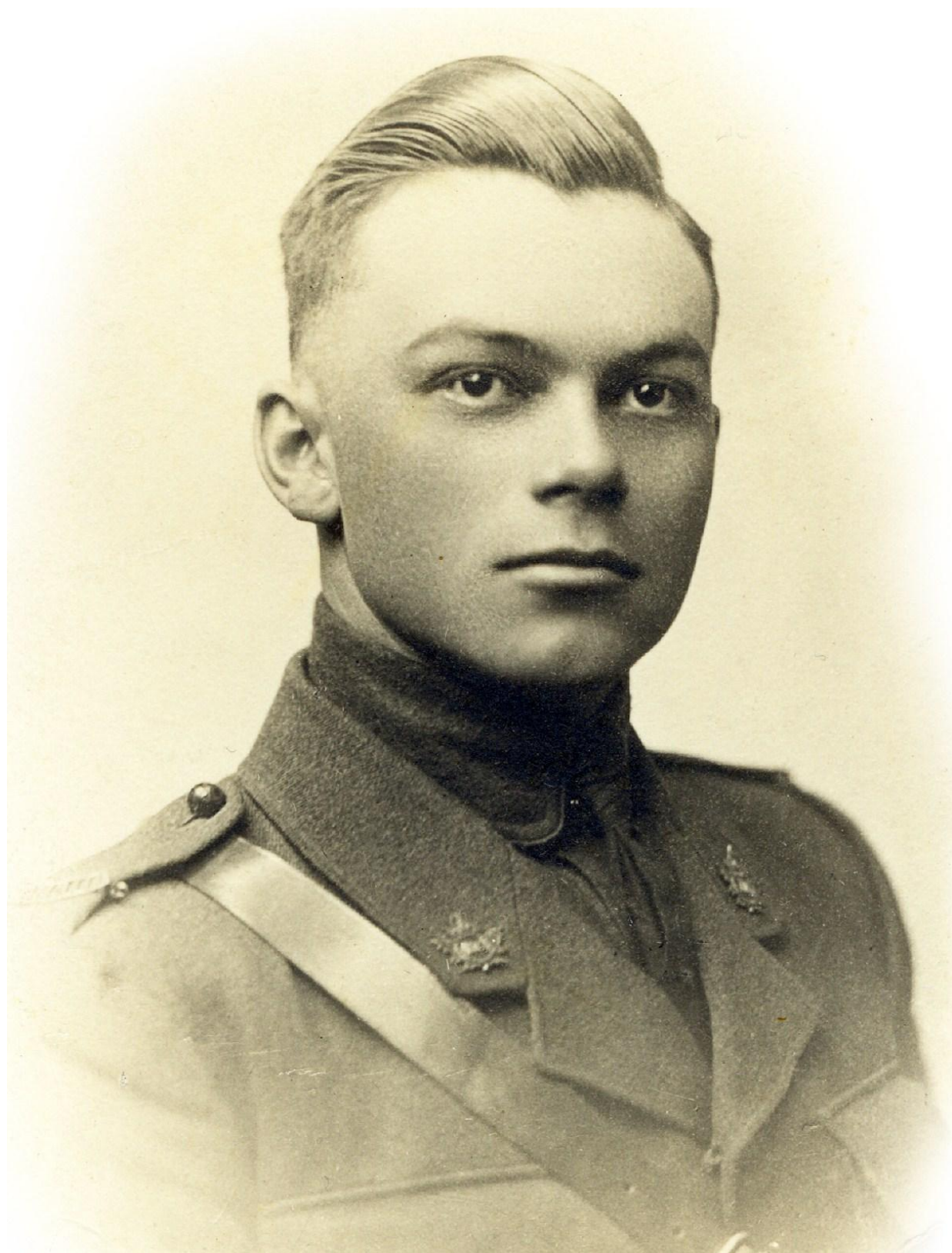
Samuel Edward Mack Soanes was born in Lindsay, Ontario (Dufferin County) on June 15, 1892 and his mother was Catherine MacLean Soanes (1867-1939) and his father was the Reverend Percy Edward Samuel Soanes. Mack (as he preferred to be called) married Vera Unorma Vipond on August 15th, 1917, in Toronto. Vera Vipond was a Nurse and later Head Nurse of the Oshawa Hospital. Mack, was Secretary and later treasurer of the Oshawa YMCA when he founded the 1st Oshawa Scout Troop on October 8th 1909 with George McLaughlin (George William McLaughlin, the older brother of Robert "Col. Sam" Samuel McLaughlin, born at Enniskillen, 17 Feb, 1869; and one of the two brothers behind the Oshawa automobile business; who married 10 Jan, 1893; and later was Vice-President and Sales Manager, McLaughlin Motor Works, Oshawa the forerunner of General Motors; at this plant he was known as "Mr. George"; he retired in 1924;and re-acquired the original McLaughlin farm, which now would be on Simcoe Street; he resided at 261 Simcoe St, N., Oshawa; George W. McLaughlin died 10 Oct, 1942 of bowel cancer at age 73 and was interred in the Oshawa Union Cemetery) and George McLaughlin was Secretary treasurer of the 1907 formed McLaughlin Motor Company. Mack and George were both Secretary Treasurers in 1909. Mack Soanes lived at 295 Richmond Street East, Oshawa, in the shadow of the General Motors office building, and later owned a convenience store within walking distance from his home. Samuel Edward Mack Soanes died at his 295 Richmond Street East Oshawa home on October 13, 1942 (Mack was 50 years old) and was buried in the Christian cemetery at little Britain, which is north of Port Perry. George W. McLaughlin died 10 October 1942 and Samuel Edward Mack Soanes died 13 October 1942, (just 3 days later).



Samuel Edward Mack Soanes was born in Lindsay, Ontario (Dufferin County) on June 15, 1892.

Mack Soanes died at Oshawa on October 13, 1942 and was buried in the Christian cemetery, two days later at little Britain, which is north of Port Perry.

On October 8th, 1909 Mack Soanes was only 17 years of age and would be the Assistant Scoutmaster of 1st Oshawa. To the left is a 1915 picture of Oshawa Scouter Mack Soanes when he was 23 years old. Notice Mack is wearing or showing 6 years of Leader Service (1909 to 1915) and his 1914 to 1916 Ambulance man badge from the 116th Battalion where he was an Army trained stretcher bearer (and YMCA trained First Aider).



Here is a promotion picture of Lieutenant S.E. Mack Soanes joining H Company (Oshawa), 34th Ontario Rifles from 2 February 1916 until redesignated in 1920. Previous to 2 February 1916 Mack Soanes was with the 116th Battalion during its 1915 organization as a Stretcher Bearer (First Aid Instructor) trainer and Recruiter. Mack Soanes name would not appear on the Muster Roll of the 116th because he did not serve overseas. Mack Soanes received a 116th Battalion gold ring from Col. W. F. Eaton because he was a 116th Battalion and Eaton Motor Machine Gun Battery Recruiter for Col. W.F. Eaton. Mack Soanes became a Medical Support Officer on 2 Feb. 1916 and by his Wedding Day of August 15th 1917 was promoted to Captain and would now be in charge of H Company of the 34th Ontario Battalion of Infantry which became The Ontario Regiment on May 1st 1920.

Organization's History Recalled By Founder

Oshawa, which has been known down through the years as a city of young people, will be the rallying point during the coming weekend for men prominent in the business and professional life of Canada who had their start in the Boy Scout Movement here. The occasion will be the celebration of the anniversary of the founding in Oshawa of the First Oshawa Boy Scout Troop in 1911.

Marking the occasion an anniversary ball will be held in the UAW Hall on Friday evening, May 24. On Saturday evening a banquet will be held in the council hall at Camp Samac at which Reg Terrett, long prominent in scouting, will be the speaker.

On Sunday, May 26, a church parade followed by a drum head service will be held at the Oshawa Shopping Centre. The parade will form at Fernhill Park at 7 p.m. and the service will commence at 2.30 p.m. A feature of the service will be the unveiling of plaques to commemorate former scouters who died in both wars, together with pictures of Lord Baden Powell and William F. Eaton. The latter was one of the first Oshawa citizens to take an interest in the movement here.

HISTORY RECALLED

It is of considerable interest, at this time, to reprint an article written by the late Max Soanes, first scoutmaster of the First Oshawa Troop, which was published in The Oshawa Daily Times on April 24, 1941. The article, recalling the early history of scouting in Oshawa, is as follows:

"The first meeting was held Mar. 25, 1919 in a barn on the outskirts of Oshawa. Four boys sat around a stable lantern on the barn floor listening to the first scoutmaster explain his dreams for scouting in the community. A few of these early gatherings were held in George W. McLaughlin's stables at which the first organization took place.

"We recall how Charles Lauder and George Harrison along with G. W. McLaughlin became our advisory committee to prepare for the application for affiliation with the Boy Scout Association in Toronto.

"The numbers grew and winter found us without quarters. As the months passed we could meet on warmer evenings out of doors but with the cool autumn days approaching the group was in difficulties. That was when George McLaughlin and Sam McLaughlin arranged temporary quarters in

Charles Quarrell, 60, a chubby, bespectacled author and journalist who badgered the ministry of works for five years to get permission for the work.

10-DAY CHORE

Excavations to a depth of about 15 feet are expected to take at least 10 days, maybe more.

"I called in two clairvoyants, in addition to water and metal diviners, so as to get further opinions on whether there was anything below ground on the site," Quarrell said.

"I wasn't really convinced by the clairvoyants but my own research and that of the water diviners indicates something is down there."

their original offices of the McLaughlin Carriage Co. Due to lack of finances the group could not ask for more than two nights a week in these quarters.

USED COUNCIL CHAMBER

"Patrol leaders had to be carefully selected and groomed so I spent my spare time from work with what little money could be spared for equipment, schooling them. George McLaughlin again came to my rescue by approaching Mayor John Gibson to secure the city hall council chamber so that the group operated as an organized body for the first time. It was here in late April, 1911 that Provincial Commissioner H. G. Hammond of Toronto formally accepted us into the Baden Powell organization.

"There were 19 patrols on parade that night, including more than 170 boys and leaders. I also recall that we paraded mostly in our school clothes for as yet we had no authority to wear uniforms. We had equipment—ropes and knots, signal flags and first aid bandages, staves, drums, bugles and even a bell tent.

Saturdays were given the scoutmaster from his place of employment, the Lander Hardware, and the salary for that day was given to scouting each week to secure handbooks and badges. But the burden was a little heavy. Many times our troop prepared entertainment which raised money and many many dollars were received from the McLaughlins. No one can measure what this encouragement meant in these hard months.

LOCAL YMCA USED

"The YMCA beckoned to us and, after a period of probation, the scoutmaster was taken on the staff as boys' work secretary. There unhampered freedom gave him the whole day to develop not only Boy Scouting but boys' work for the entire town as well. Equipment was made or provided, books and pictures gathered to adorn quarters upstairs in the YMCA building.

"We had time to develop a system of training which taught the boys to use their hands in the creation of hobbies. The result was overwhelming. To show the people what was being accomplished an arts and crafts exhibition was held with the work of the members of the troop on display for two days. The exhibition had much to do with selling scouting to Oshawa.

"On the advice of Hon. Gordon Conant a boys' executive, or cabinet as it was then called, was formed in the early fall of 1911. Lt.-Col. W. F. Eaton chaired the nomination meeting for the new executive. Those elected to the first Boy Scout Boys' Cabinet were: John Burns, president; Leo Daniels, secretary; Albert Wilson, treasurer; Thomas McDowell, Len Harrison, Cecil Simmons, Arthur Lane, "Bud" Wilson, Pelham Young and Lorne Reid.

BUGLE BAND FORMED

"It was to Madison Walters, an executive of the Royal Bank of Canada, that credit must be given for the formation of the first bugle band, organized in 1911 with the assistance of Col. William Eaton. After the First World War broke out two bugle bands were sent overseas, one of them being

the Oshawa band which went overseas in 1915.

"We look back with kind reflection on the original scout camps held annually on May 24 on the farm of J. McKenzie at Columbus and E. J. Black at Whitby. Summer camps for senior boys and leaders were held on the shores of Lake Scugog. Due to the scarcity of leaders, among whom were Charlie Milton and Bert Ludlow, we were not able to accommodate all who wished to attend. Finally the cabinet, throughout the winter of 1914, worked out a plan in conjunction with Col. Eaton, Mrs. George W. McLaughlin and Charles M. Mundy to have a two-week camp at Oshawa-on-the-Lake. Not only our own scouts but also all troops in the province were welcome to attend. Toronto headquarters was brought into the plan and a splendid program was drawn up. This result was that the camp facilities again proved far too small. Close to 1200 boys filled the camp during the two weeks, and a fine school of instruction was conducted by headquarters, associated with our own leaders.

"One result was the inviting of our leaders to help in the organization of boy scout troops in Lindsay, Ormeee, Markham, Brocklin and Whitby.

HELPED FORM GUIDES

"Another outgrowth of scouting in Oshawa was the leadership given to the formation of the first Girl Guide Company in Oshawa under the leadership of Miss M. Pye and Miss McLeod, school teachers. The scouts gave up their quarters each Thursday so that this program could flourish for girls as well as boys.

"With the outbreak of the First World War the senior members of the First Oshawa Troop rallied to the call of King and Country. In all 67 enlisted and seven gave their lives for their country."

Scout leaders also recall that on April 6, 1920 the No. 1 Troop was re-organized at Thornton's Corners and continued to fill its place in the life of the community with distinction until it disbanded on April 6, 1930.

The Westmount No. 1 Troop was started on Nov. 30, 1930. One of the prominent figures in this organization was William L. Pierson who served as chairman for 7 years. Mr. Pierson was also district scoutmaster from 1930 to 1932; commissioner from 1932 to 1933; vice-president of the local association in 1940-41 and president in 1942-43.



COL. W. F. EATON

May Resume Canada-Red Visits Again

OTTAWA (CP)—Exchange visits between Canada and Russia may be resumed on a modest scale before long, it was indicated here today.

Though any Canadian citizen holding a valid Canadian passport and Russian visa can go to the Soviet Union, the Canadian government has been discouraging such visits since the Red Army crushed the Hungarian revolt last November.

During the winter, one Canadian sports promoter was discouraged by the government from attempting to arrange exchange tours by Canadian and Soviet hockey teams.

Now there are signs of a change in attitude, informants said Tuesday. Any change will be gradual. For instance, no date has been set when exchange visits might suddenly be resumed.

The last exchange visit, in the autumn of 1956, involved lumbermen from both countries. Canadian groups intending to visit Russia normally consult the external affairs department first.