



# ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1  
[www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com](http://www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com)

Vol. 43 No. 3

*September-October 2018*



Kevin Flynn holds an Acton dog tag license from 1919.

## METAL DETECTING

A hobby is most rewarding when it's enjoyable and a learning experience. This is especially true of metal detecting. Every hobbyist learns to love various scientific disciplines to be successful in the field. Treasure hunting offers the opportunity to learn about soil types, biology, physics, electronics and the weather.

To answer a simple question like, "How do coins get buried in the ground?", science must be employed. A coin gets covered by decaying leaves, grass and twigs, wind carrying dust and flowing water. Earthworms also bury

objects with the soil by eating their way through layers of soil and excreting digested soil. This process can bury objects in the soil at a rate of 1 cm each year. Gravity and cracks can also play a role in how deep a coin comes to rest.

### **Kevin Flynn**

Kevin is a long time resident of Halton Hills, happily married for 42 years and father of three. He has always been intrigued by history and collecting artifacts.

Four years ago he decided to combine these two interests and developed a passion for the hobby of metal detecting.

Kevin says, “there is something thrilling about setting out on a summer morning to a freshly mowed field and wondering what I might find hidden under the surface”.

Among the many items discovered, he has found numerous coins from the 1800’s (both Canadian and foreign); a fully intact 1939 license plate; vintage military buttons, gold and silver rings and other jewelry and many objects that remain unidentified.

As satisfying as it is to save some history, Kevin says, the most rewarding aspect of his hobby is returning a lost item to its original owner.



You can see videos of Kevin’s adventures on his YouTube channel called “Digging Halton”

The original use for the item on the left has not been determined. Can you help?



During our September meeting, Kevin will be sharing the following:

- An introduction to the hobby of metal detecting
- 2 presentation cases of actual items discovered
- The metal detectorists Code of Ethics
- A short video clip of an actual discovery
- Weather permitting, an outdoor demonstration of the metal detector in action



Kevin will conclude his presentation with a question and answer session.



A 1983 British Pound coin





# ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

### 2018

Wed. 12 Sept 2018 **DIGGING HALTON**  
 The hobby of metal detecting will be explored by Kevin Flynn, who will share some of his adventures and his finds. He has many episodes on his YouTube channel "Digging Halton." There may even be a demonstration!  
**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.**

Sunday 30 Sept 2018 **WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN**  
 Join local historian John Mark Rowe as he leads a walking tour of downtown Georgetown as part of Open Doors / Cultural Days Halton Hills.  
**HALTON HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY, 9 Church St., Georgetown, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**

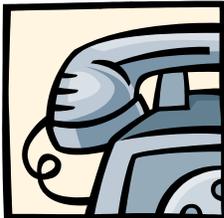
Wed. 10 Oct. 2018 **THOMAS CHISHOLM LIVINGSTON**  
 An Esquesing native who became a surveyor and an entrepreneur of national significance, Thomas Chisholm Livingston will be the topic of John McDonald's Powerpoint presentation.  
**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.**

Wed. 14 Nov. 2018 **LEST WE FORGET**  
 One hundred years have passed since Armistice Day. Like countless Canadian communities, we built memorials and cenotaphs and placed plaques to honour the largest loss of life in war ever. John Mark Rowe will visit our local places of remembrance. A display table will be available to share your own memories.  
**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.**

December  
 The Esquesing Historical Society does not hold a public meeting in December.

### INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER!

Refreshments served from 7:00 p.m.



Stephen Blake	905 877-8251	President
Karen Hunter	905 877-7363	Treasurer
Dawn Livingstone	905 877-6506	Secretary
J. Mark Rowe	905 877-9510	Archivist
Jan Raymond	905 877-9172	Social
David Borrett	905 702-0737	Membership
Ray Denny	905 877-3890	Publications

## Society Notes

### INTERNET CONNECTIONS

<http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com/> Note the new website address. Send your e-mail to [esquesinghs@gmail.com](mailto:esquesinghs@gmail.com)

### EHS NEWSLETTER

John Mark Rowe prepared this newsletter. Submissions welcome. Please consider an electronic newsletter sent to your e-mail address. Not only will you save the Society postage, you get to see the colour pictures!

### MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 69 members for 2018. Our membership year runs from February. Please encourage others to support the EHS by purchasing a membership. The individual membership rate is \$20. The family or institution rate is \$25. The EHS is still very happy to accept personal cheques from our members. Please note that all cheques must be made payable to "Esquesing Historical Society", fully spelled out. They can be mailed to our post box or payable by cash or cheque to our membership secretary, David Borrett at a public meeting.

### ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

[www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca)

### EHS ARCHIVES

The EHS benefited from two summer



students this year. In the photo are Zach Cunningham (left) and Anthony Borges at work in the Archives. Zach was employed by the EHS, while Anthony was hired by Heritage Halton Hills. A Canada Students

grant funded both positions. Zach added 189 photos from the Halton Hills Sports Museum to the EHS Archives. Over 900 photos were scanned into our collection. The students also started entering a few items into our on-line finding aid, which is a work in progress at this point.

The Town of Halton Hills transferred 9 boxes of Acton and Georgetown Council minutes and by-laws to our collection this summer.

### EHS 2018 HISTORY PRIZE

Once again, the Esquesing Historical Society was pleased to offer a history scholarship in the amount of \$200 to one student at each of our high schools. They also received one of our publications. The June awards went to:

Acton DHS Victoria McCutcheon  
Georgetown DHS Nick Klobucar  
Christ the King CSS Sydney Durham

### HALTON-PEEL OGS

Sept. 23 – *Researching Through Facebook* - Oakville Public Library, 120 Navy Street, Oakville 2-4 p.m.

Oct. 28 – *Dead and Buried!* Oakville Public Library, 120 Navy Street, Oakville 2-4 p.m.

### DEVEREAUX HOUSE

Ann Lawlor at [ann@devereauxhouse.ca](mailto:ann@devereauxhouse.ca)

### HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

<http://haltonhillssportsmuseum.blogspot.ca/>

### STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

The Society Library and Archives are open Wednesdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Leslie Log Cabin at 4415 Mississauga Road.

Oct. 11 - Mathew Wilkinson, Historian, *Giants Amongst Us: Life and Times of Mississauga Legends*

### BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7:15.

Sept. 20 – Paul Racher, *The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*.

Oct. 18 - Sandra McNamara, *Life and Times of the United Empire Loyalists*.

### MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society meets in the Carriage Room of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street at 7:30 p.m.

Walking Tours: Sept. 9, 16, 23 & 30 -2 p.m. at 16 James Street; cost \$10 cash only

Sept. 20 –John McDonald, *Thomas Chisholm Livingston*.

Oct. 18 – John Mark Rowe, *History of Hornby*

### **OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Meetings are at St. John's United Church, Randall Street, at 7:30 p.m.

### **BURLINGTON HIST. SOCIETY**

Sept. 18 –AGM & Don Crossley at 7 p.m. at Burlington Library.

### **NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY**

[info@nasagiweyahistoricalociety.com](mailto:info@nasagiweyahistoricalociety.com)

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, beginning in March.

### **TRAFALGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

All events at former Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West, Oakville.

### **TERRA COTTA HALL**

Terra Cotta Community Hall rentals:

Contact Kathy Atkinson at

[terracottaeventbooking@gmail.com](mailto:terracottaeventbooking@gmail.com)

### **MILTON H.S. RENAMES ARCHIVES**

The Alex Cooke Memorial Archives has been renamed the Alex Cooke-Jim Dills Archives by the Board of Directors of Milton Historical Society in recognition of the considerable contributions by both gentlemen in terms of helping to found the Society in 1977, authoring several important books of local history, and donating their considerable collections of electronic and/or published local historical research to the Society to help establish the archives for public use...

The Alex Cooke-Jim Dills Archives is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 9:30 a.m. and 12 noon. For further information call 905-875-4156 or email

[info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca)

-MHS Journal Summer 2018

### **GOODFELLA'S PIZZA OPENS**

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Goodfella's Pizza restaurant opened for business in the former TD Bank building at 29 Main Street, South,



Georgetown. The building straddles the (now underground) stream from Lawson's Pond to the Kennedy sawmill and thence to Silver Creek. The first building here was the electric suburban railway station and power house in the 1920s. That building was demolished in the 1960s to build this brick structure originally for a Trust company and latterly as the TD Bank.

### **CREDIT VALLEY TRAIL**

The fully designed Credit Valley Trail Strategy has been completed. The Credit Valley Trail will be a continuous 100-kilometre pathway through the Credit River Valley – from the Hills of the Headwaters in Orangeville to Lake Ontario in Port Credit – connecting people to the beauty of nature, rich cultural experiences, Indigenous heritage and values, and to the sacred, sustaining waters of the Credit River.

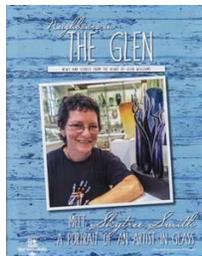
Credit Valley Conservation is very proud to be leading and coordinating this legacy project and believes that the CVT Strategy is wholly representative of the input, passion and collective knowledge of the more than 100 steering committee members that helped shaped the ambitious 25 year strategy.

Thank you for your contributions to this amazing endeavour. There are numerous opportunities to help achieve the vision of

the CVT. Please consider participating on a CVT Committee. For a listing of opportunities, please visit [www.creditvalleytrail.ca](http://www.creditvalleytrail.ca)

Natalie Faught  
Senior Coordinator, Credit Valley Trail,  
905-670-1615 ext 533  
[Natalie.faught@cvc.ca](mailto:Natalie.faught@cvc.ca)

### GLEN MAGAZINE FOLDS



Unbeknownst to many, Glen Williams had its own village monthly magazine from April 2015 until August 2018 (pictured). It featured many adverts along with locally written articles including a history

column by J.M. Rowe. The EHS archives holds a copy of each issue.

### ELECTION DAY 22 OCTOBER

Don't forget to vote in Municipal and School Board elections.

*There was a Federal election called in October 1908.*

### The Nominations

As expected, David Henderson, M.P. and Dr. W.S. Harrison were the only candidates nominated for the Commons for Halton at the Town Hall on Monday...

At Acton last Monday, W.G. Gould pleaded guilty before a magistrate of stealing and burning posters announcing one of Dr. Harrison's meetings. He took posters from a buggy. He paid damages and was released.

*-Canadian Champion 22 Oct. 1908*

### DR. HARRISON'S FINE MEETING – Crowded Hall Listens to his Clear and Lucid Presentation of Public Affairs

### –COL. THOMPSON'S ABLE SPEECH

Not in a long time has there been as fine a political meeting held in Acton as was that of Dr. Harrison, the Liberal candidate, on Tuesday evening. The hall was crowded to the doors, and the large audience, which included many ladies, was most orderly and

attentive throughout. The speeches were utterly devoid of bitterness and recrimination. They were moderate and manly in tone, and without objectionable personalities of any kind... The meeting closed with cheers for the King, Sir Wilfred Laurier and Dr. Harrison.

*- Acton Free Press 22 Oct. 1908*

### HENDERSON'S MAJ. INCREASED

**Halton is willing for him to Round out a  
Quarter Century**

### GOT A LANDSLIDE AT ACTON

The cry "No outsider need apply" seems to have been again successful in this county...

*- Acton Free Press 29 Oct. 1908*

### THANKSGIVING

Monday next, 9<sup>th</sup> November, has been proclaimed a day for general public thanksgiving to Almighty God for his many benefits to us as a nation during the year.

-The boys behaved themselves fairly well on Hallowe'en. Beyond the removal of a few gates the pranks were few.

-There were many enjoyable Hallowe'en parties in town on Saturday evening.

-The merchants have included Wednesdays in the early closing evenings, and on and after November 4<sup>th</sup>, the stores will be closed every night at 8 o'clock with the exception of Friday and Saturday.

-Mrs. Wm. Neville, of Berlin, was a guest during the week of Mrs. C.S. Smith at Fairview Place.

### CREWSON'S CORNERS

The turnip crop now being harvested is the poorest seen in these parts in years.

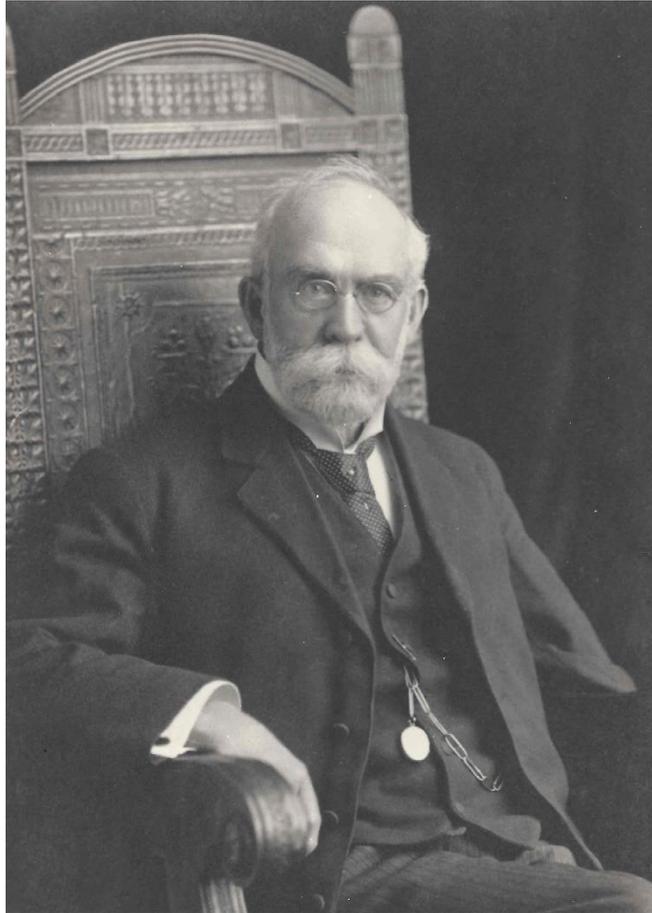
Quite a number of our people are attending the evangelistic services now being conducted in the Methodist Church, Acton.

### ESQUESING PLOWING MATCH

The annual plowing match of Esquesing Agricultural Society will be held on the farm of Mr. Richard N. Brown, Acton on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

*- Acton Free Press 5 Nov. 1908*

# Thomas Chisholm Livingston

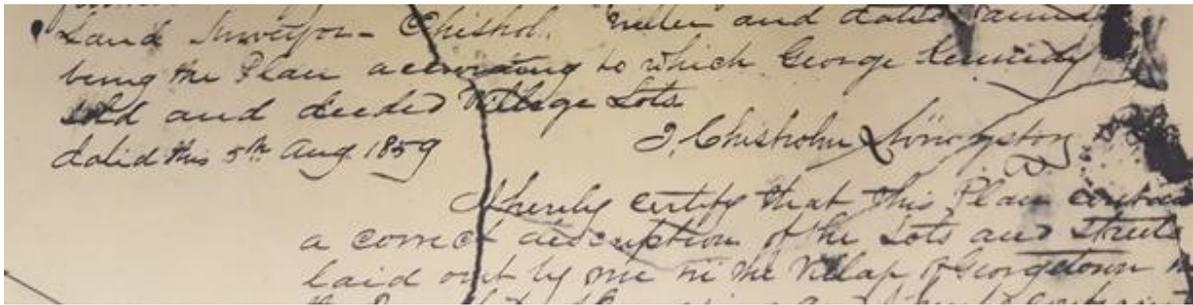


One of Esquesing's earliest entrepreneurs who gained national significance has been forgotten through the passage of time.

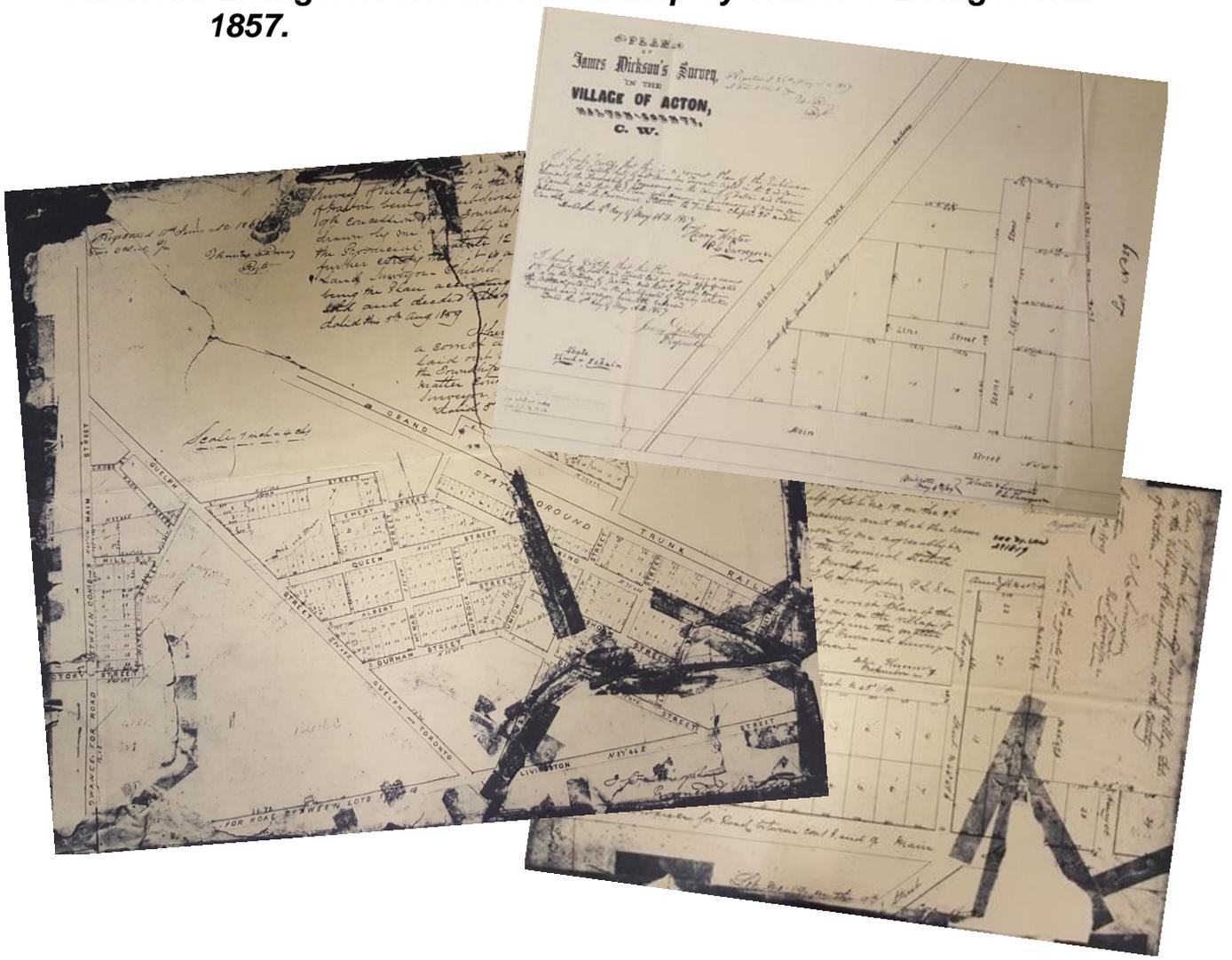
Historian and author John McDonald has been researching the life and times of Thomas Chisholm Livingston who was born in Esquesing Township in 1836. Livingston was one of the first land surveyors in these parts and is responsible for some of the earliest surveys of Georgetown, Acton and Milton. By the 1870's Livingston moved to Western Canada and eventually owned significant parcels of land in Winnipeg, Vancouver and Niagara Falls.

About 1907, Livingston returned to Halton County and purchased lands in Milton adjacent to Martin's mill pond. He subsequently operated a lovely park on the site. Passenger cars on both railway lines from Toronto and Hamilton brought people looking for relaxation and entertainment. It was during this time that Livingston proposed an electric rail line running north-south through Milton (from Oakville to Guelph) a decade before the Toronto Suburban Railway serviced Georgetown and Acton.

McDonald will present a PowerPoint presentation about T. C. Livingston's life and times at the Esquesing Historical Society on Wednesday October 10<sup>th</sup>.



Two of these survey maps of Georgetown were completed by Thomas Chisholm Livingston and the Acton map by Winter & Livingston in 1857.



04 June 1908      **Milton to have a Park Again**

Mr. T.C. Livingston, of this town, has purchased what has hitherto been known as the pleasure grounds, or park, at the bend in the pond, near the diamond. It is his intention to have it fixed up and have the two railways run excursions here during the summer. The railway authorities have promised to erect platforms at the entrances to the park and to do all they can to make it attractive to visitors and excursionists. -Reformer      -*Acton Free Press*

25 June 1908      **Another Trolley to Acton Proposed**

The Milton papers are publishing the following legal advertisement: "Notice is hereby given that an application will be made in the Legislature of Ontario for an Act Incorporating The Milton Radial Railway Company, with power to construct and operate an electric railway between Milton and Bronte or Oakville, with power also to extend the line to Acton and to Brampton, with a branch line to Georgetown and further extensions, with all the usual corporate powers of electric railway companies. -T.C. Livingston, for himself and associates." It is to be hoped this line will materialize more promptly than the two or three lines previously projected for similar routes. A trolley from Acton to the county town will be very popular.      -*Acton Free Press*

## **OBITUARY**

### **T. C. LIVINGSTON**

Thomas Chisholm Livingston died suddenly of apoplexy at his home in Milton on Saturday morning. On Friday he had superintended the work of a man on his grounds but had complained of a severe headache. On Saturday morning he got up, told his housekeeper that he would be down to breakfast and went into his bathroom. After waiting about half an hour for him, a boy was sent up to see what caused him to delay and found him lying dead on the floor. Mr. Livingston was in his 78<sup>th</sup> year. He was born in Esquesing. He graduated as a land surveyor and pursued that profession for some years, when he turned his attention to life insurance ... He spent some years in the west, principally at Vancouver, B.C. He removed from Hamilton to Milton about five years ago and at once devoted his attention to advertising the advantages of the town... Mr. Livingston was married twice but died a widower. He left two sons, Police Magistrate W.C. Livingston of Brantford and Stuart Livingston of Vancouver B.C. and one daughter, Miss Livingston who lived with him....

-*Canadian Champion 20 Nov. 1913*