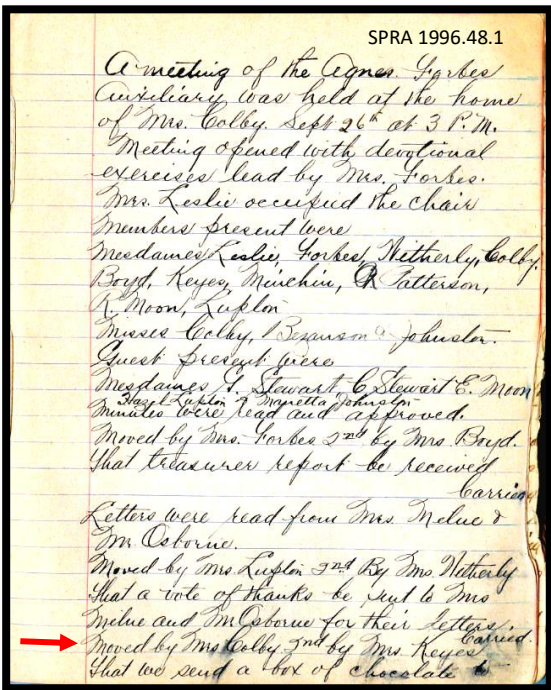


# WEST SMOKY LEGION No. 244

## ACKNOWLEDGES CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY LOCAL LADIES' AUXILIARY GROUP

The first meeting of the ladies of the Glen Leslie Presbyterian Church was held at the home of Mrs. Minchin on April 28, 1916 at which time it was decided that the name of the group would be the "Glen Leslie Auxiliary". The name was subsequently changed to "Agnes Forbes Auxiliary" at the May 31, 1916 meeting. The founding members were; "Mesdames Leslie (elected President), Milne, Minchin (elected Vice-President), Weatherly, Hackwell and Miss Elizabeth Johnston (elected Secretary Treasurer)". Mesdames Forbes and Shuttleworth of McQueen's Auxiliary were

present to organize the Society. The group met monthly in the homes of its members. Meetings were used for practical purposes such as cleaning the church, preparing for and organizing special and social events. Devotional exercises, reading and music were also a regular segment of the meetings. They participated in various fund-raising events that showcased their sewing, knitting and fancy-work skills. The group exemplified Red Cross participation in conjunction with unwavering support for the soldiers from the Glen Leslie area by means of letters and gifts.



**The September 26, 1916 meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Colby at Bezanson.**

**"Moved by Mrs. Colby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Keyes, that we send a box of chocolates and a letter to each soldier boy from here. Carried. It was also moved that ten yards of flannelette and a dozen spools of thread be ordered from Eaton's for Red Cross work."**

Letters and parcels from home were vital to the morale of the military personnel. The letters written back home became invaluable components of the archived documentation of the history of the war itself.



The Canadian Red Cross was established in the fall of 1896 as an affiliate of the British Red Cross Society which was then known as the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War. The Canadian Red Cross Society Act of 1909 legally established the Red Cross as the corporate body in Canada responsible for providing volunteer aid in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

The First World War marked a major turning point for the Canadian Red Cross Society, establishing it as Canada's leading wartime humanitarian-aid organization. The number of Red Cross branches and Red Cross auxiliaries (church groups, clubs, etc.) across the country multiplied. Women, who were not allowed to participate in the military at that time, were especially active in their support for the Red Cross. Their knitted "comforts" such as socks, scarves and sweaters along with medical supplies such as bandages that they produced, became a symbol of women's contributions during wartime.

The outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939 returned the Canadian Red Cross Society to its roots as a wartime humanitarian-aid organization. For the duration of the war, the Society's primary focus was on providing aid to sick, wounded and captured troops. The Society's wartime work also expanded during the war to provide aid to civilian victims of the war particularly those who were bombed during the Battle of Britain.

### Reference

Wikipedia

Glen Leslie Church Centennial History Book

SPRA September 2022 Newsletter article by Kaylee Dyck



Written by Wanda Zenner September 2022