

REMEMBRANCE

Many residents found ways to commemorate the sacrifices made by loved ones during the Great War.

After returning from serving in the First World War (1914-1918), Municipal Clerk Archie Payne and Doctor Benjamin Marr set about remembering those who had died. They asked Langley Township Council to rename the roads the fallen had lived on in their honour, and many of those street names, like Glover Road or Wright Street, are still used today. A memorial tree was also planted at each street; most have been lost, but a few remain. Once most streets were numbered decades later, heritage markers were created to remind residents and visitors of the names.

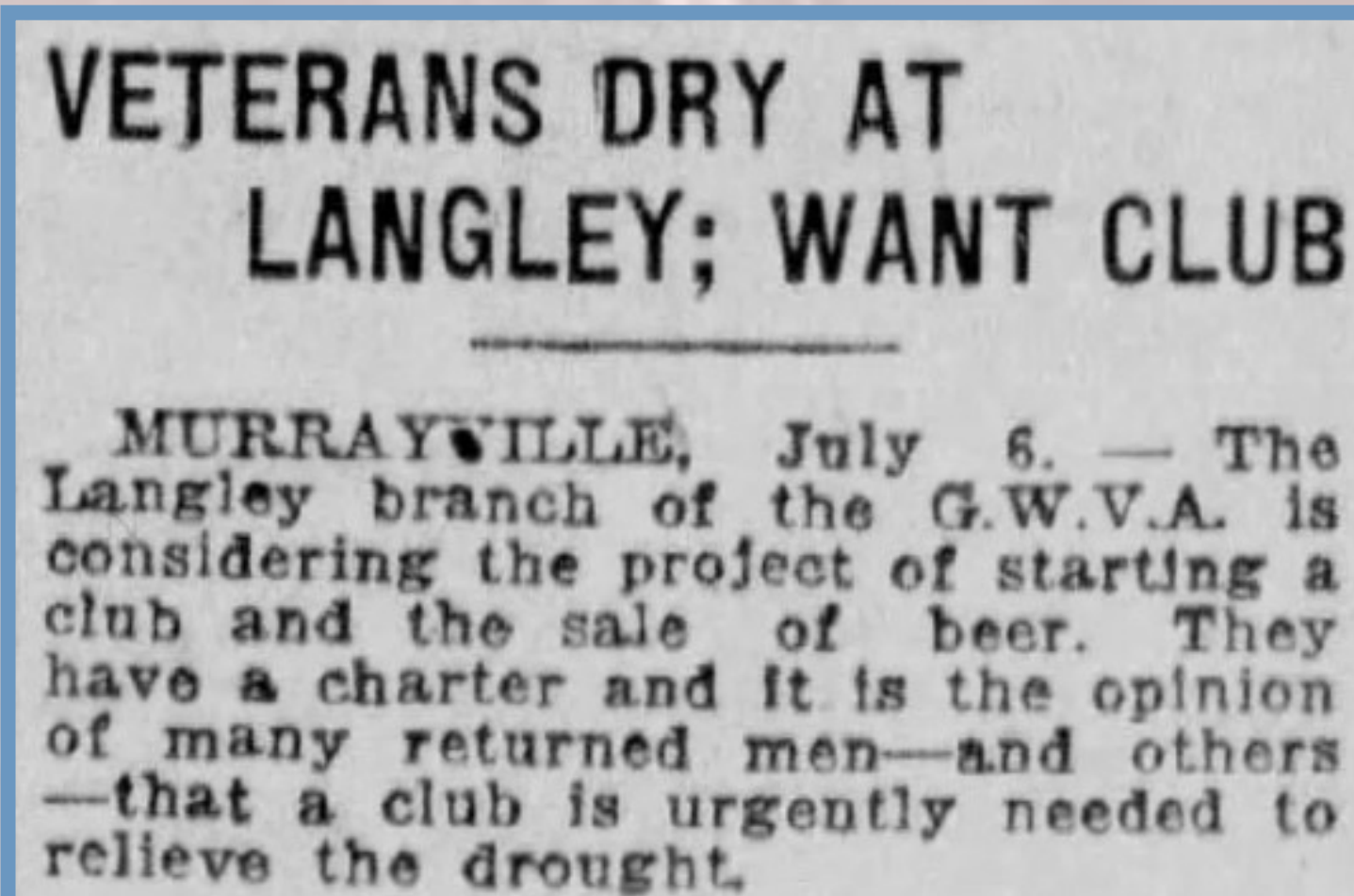
Residents donated funds to create cenotaphs in both municipal cemeteries at Fort Langley and Murrayville in 1920, and burial areas were created for veterans.



(Above) Murrayville's Art Johnston was killed by a sniper near Ypres. Johnston Townline Road (216th St.) was renamed in his honour.

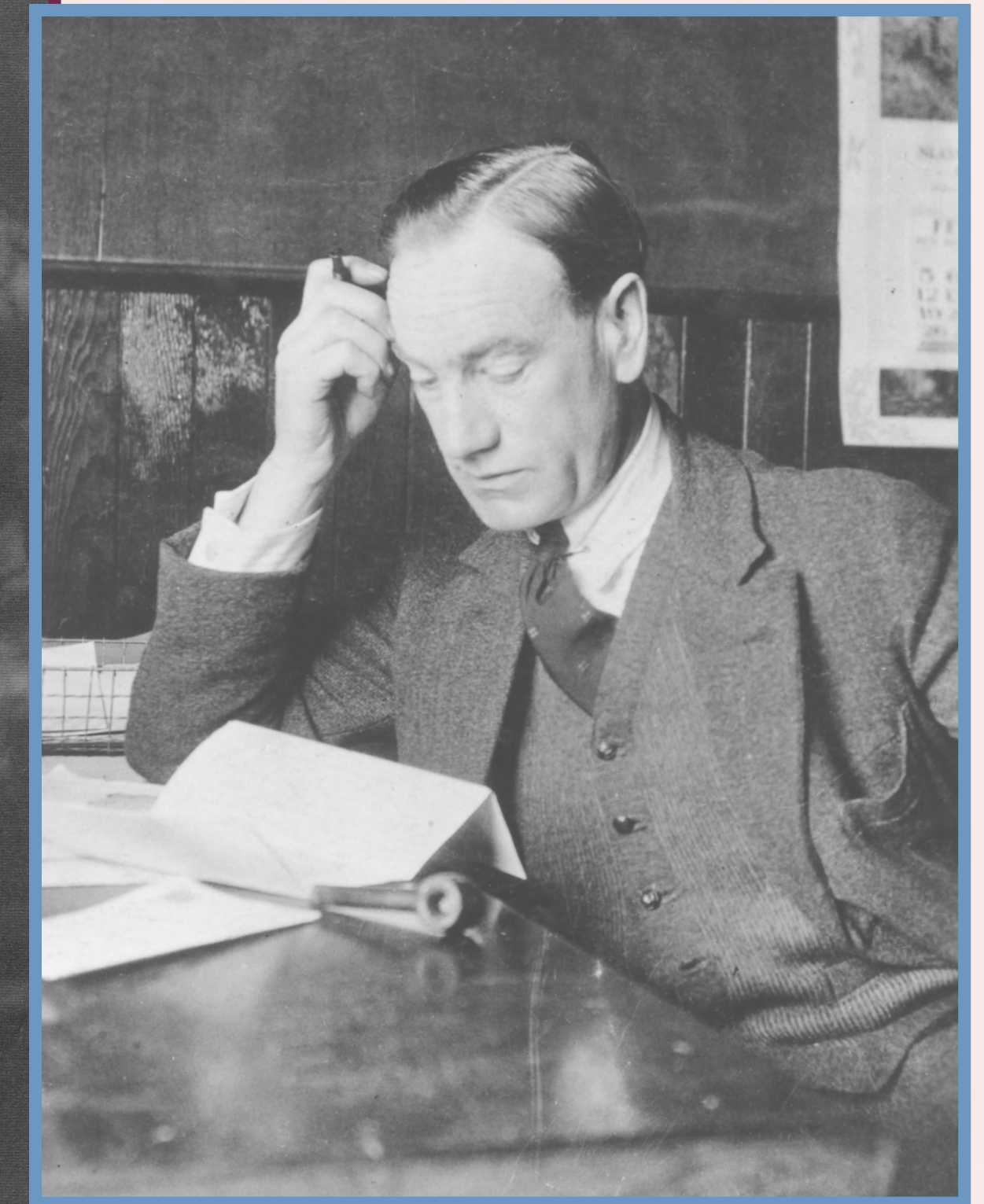


(Above) Fort Langley's George Sellers was killed in action in 1918. His wife succumbed to influenza in 1920, and their daughters were sent to live with relatives in England.



(Above) *The Vancouver Sun*, July 7, 1921.

Many veterans took advantage of the Soldier Settlement Act, which provided low-interest loans to encourage returning men to take up agriculture. Several small acreages were purchased by returning soldiers around the district. Preferential treatment was given to those who were willing to take up and clear unimproved land, a task that was intensely cumbersome for many as there was no income coming in until the land was cleared. By the Depression at the end of the decade, many had walked away from their Settlement land and had lost everything. Others used this opportunity to acquire second pieces of property.



Veterans and organizers Archie Payne (above) and Dr. Benjamin Marr (left).

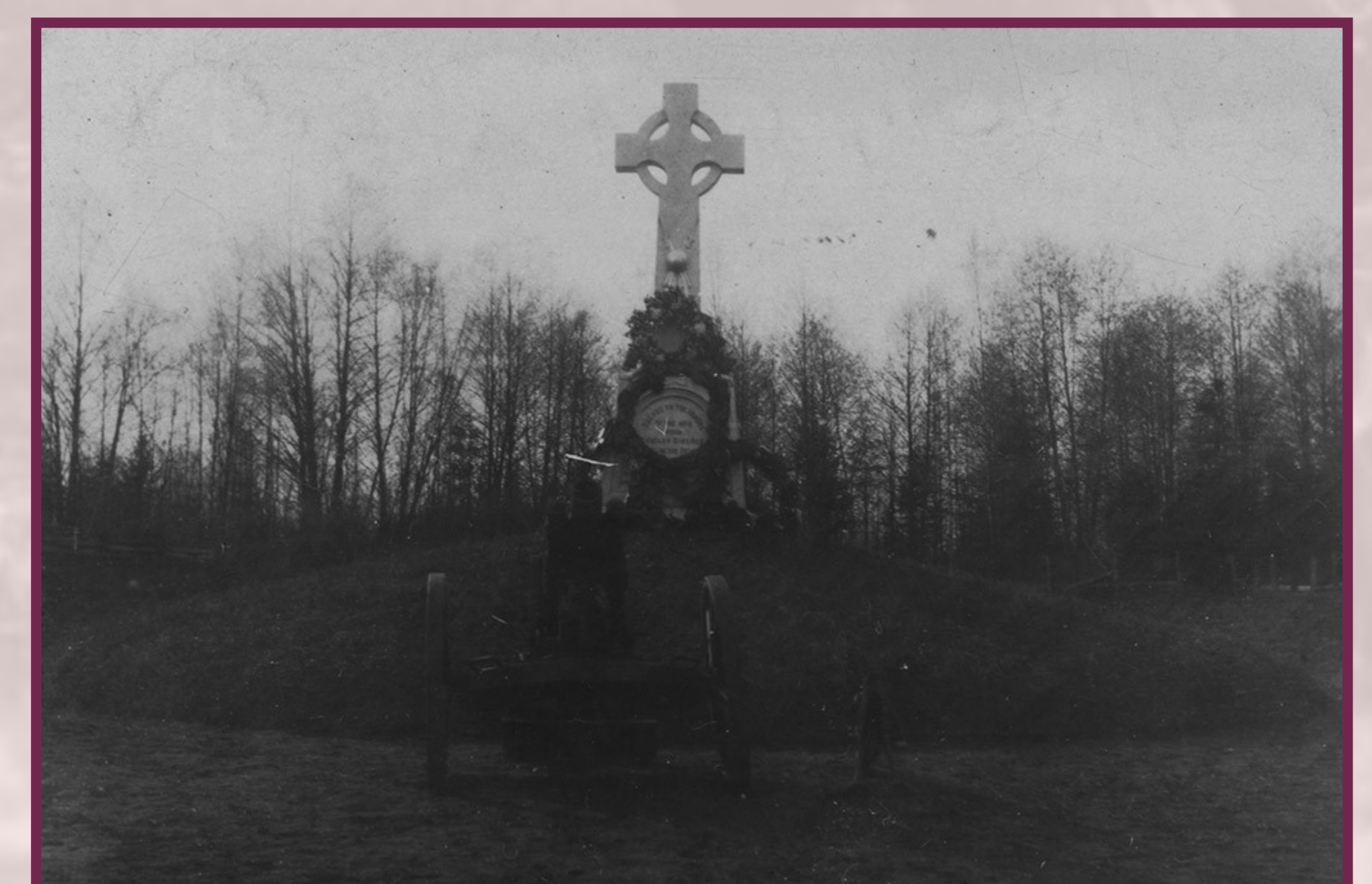


(Above) A rare shot of the Trattle Road tree, plaque, and cross, named for Fort Langley's Alf Trattle, ca. 1922.



(Above) Brothers Alf and William Trattle, sons of deceased soldier Alfred Trattle, in the sailor suits they wore to the Fort Langley cenotaph unveiling in April 1920. They were given the honour of unveiling the monument.

Several veterans' organizations were created across the country, and in Langley several branches of the Great War Veterans' Association existed before merging into one Langley group. After 1925 the national organizations all united as the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Services League, later known as the Royal Canadian Legion.



The cenotaph in the Fort Langley Cemetery, showing the First World War gun that was originally stationed there, ca. 1921.