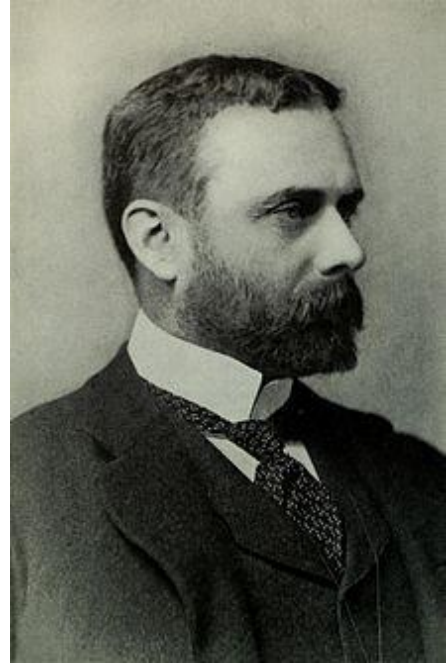


SIR GILBERT PARKER

Inducted 2015 September 12

Gilbert Parker was born on Nov. 23, 1862 at Camden East, Lennox and Addington County. He was educated locally, then in Ottawa, and finally graduated from Trinity College in Toronto. He was first employed as an educator at the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville, then lectured at Trinity College. In 1886 he moved to Australia and became editor of the Sydney Morning Herald. He also travelled extensively around the world.

By 1889 he had relocated to London, England and soon gained a reputation as an author of romantic and historical fiction. Many of his works were based on historical events and life in Canada, and particularly the province of Quebec. His works were published throughout the world and became popular reading over the next two decades. His best known novel was Seats of the Mighty published in 1896, dealing with the conquest of Quebec. Parker was knighted by King Edward VII in 1902 for his contributions to Canadian literature, and as such was the first Canadian to be knighted in that field. Three of his many novels made the top 10 annual best-selling novels in America, with two books staying on the list for two years in a row. Parker also wrote several romantic poems. Three of those poems were set to music by the famed English Edwardian era composer, Sir Edward Elgar.



In addition to his prowess as an author, he was elected to the British House of Commons in 1900 and served as the Conservative member for Gravesend until 1918. During his years in politics, he worked on behalf of Tariff Reform and in promoting British Imperialism. He was appointed as a Baronet in 1915 and to the Privy Council in 1916. During the First World War, due to his literary skills, he was put in charge of writing pro-British propaganda to encourage American support for the war effort. Many of these articles were published in the New York Times. His office was also responsible for letters sent to numerous American universities, clubs, public libraries and the YMCA. It was felt that his efforts helped the cause of convincing America to declare war in 1917.

Parker was married in 1895 to Amy VanTine, a wealthy American heiress. They had no children. He died in London in 1932 but was buried in Belleville Cemetery. Among his pallbearers was Prime Minister R.B. Bennett.

The Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board erected a marker plaque in his memory which is located on County Road 4 in the village of Camden East, not far from Napanee.

Parker was inducted into the Loyalist Hall of Honour at our meeting on September 12, 2015 by Jim Gubb

A full list of his literary works follows:

Novels: *A Ladder of Swords, Carnac's Folly, Cunmer's Son & Other South Sea Folk, Donovan Pasha and Some People of Egypt, Michel and Angele, Mrs. Faichion, No Defense, Northern Lights, Parables Of A Province, Pierre And His People, Romany Of The Snows, Seats Of The Mighty, The Battle Of The Strong, The Judgment House, The Lane That Had No Turning, The March of The White Guard, The Money Master, The Pomp of the Lavillettes, The Right of Way, The Trail of The Sword, The Translation of A Savage, The Trespasser, The Weavers, The World For Sale, When Valmond Came to Pontiac, Wild Youth, You Never Know Your Luck*

Poetry Books :*A Lover's Diary. Embers*

Short Stories: *An Unpardonable Liar, At The Sign Of The Eagle, John Enderby, The Going of the White Swan, There is Sorrow On The Sea*

