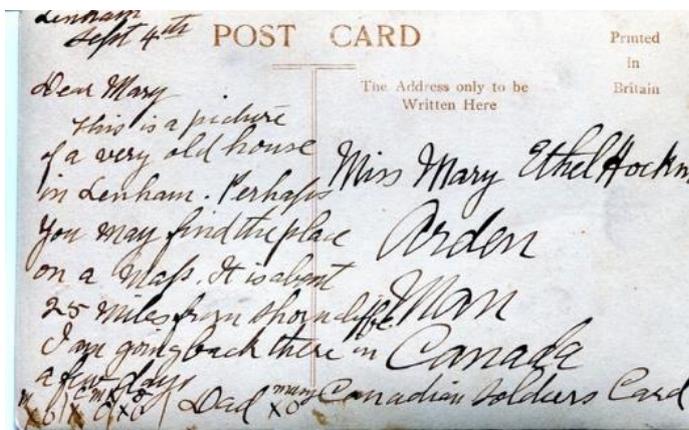# We remember one who made it home to Canada!

by Henny Shotter

Lenham has a special connection with the Canadian Forces who served in WWI. Lenham Chest Hospital was used for rehabilitation of their soldier who had been exposed to gas attacks by the Germans and in Lenham cemetery there are war graves of those who didn't make it home.

We were contacted by the grandson of John Hockin who served with the Canadian forces in WWI. He was in his late thirties when he joined the army.

John had sent a picture postcard from Lenham to his wife Mary who must have been very happy to hear from him. In the postcard he refers to a 'very old house" in Lenham. There are many, but how many would then have shown off their timber construction as perfectly as the' High House' (now

'Honywood House')?

What was so special about Honywood House? John Hockin had his home in Saskatchewan where he had made a land claim in the prairie. Although indigenous people had lived in Saskatchewan for thousands of years, the Europeans settled from 1774 in the county and started building their homes. In 1774 when the European settlers came and slowly made their mark on Saskatchewan, Honywood House had stood in Lenham for 150 years already! It was in 1918 almost 300 hundred years old which is by all counts 'very old'.

We don't know which battles John had witnessed and how he overcame his wartime experiences, but he obviously found his way back into 'normal' life. After the war the family moved to Vancouver where he worked as an engineer on the ferry. We are grateful to his grandson for telling us his story.