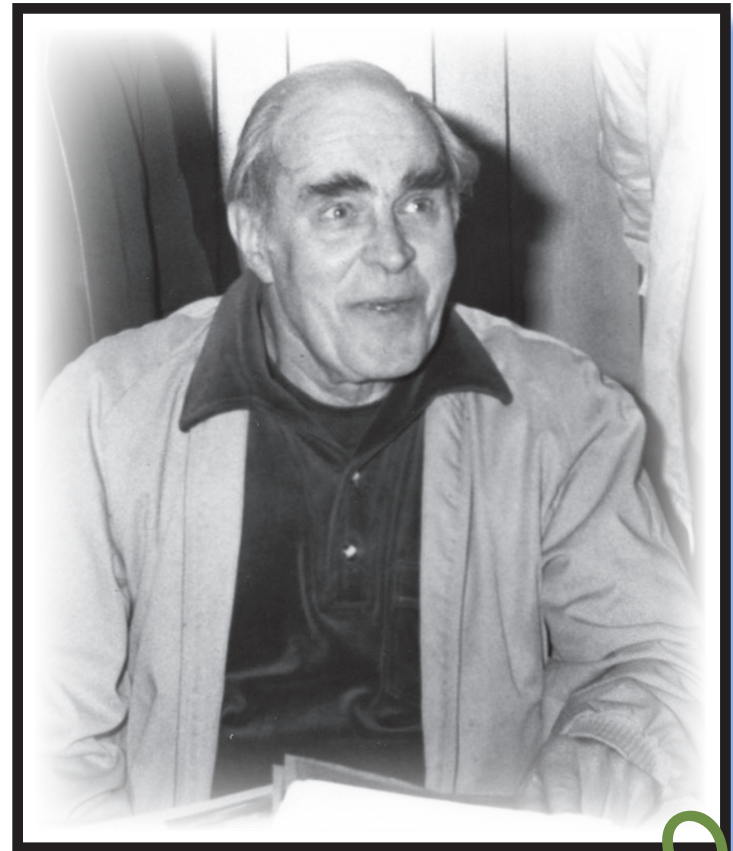


# George E. Thorman: A Brief History



1913 - 1997

## George E. Thorman: A Brief History

On October 19, 1989, the St. Thomas Public Library's local history room is named after George Thorman, a teacher, historian and author. He was born in Vancouver, and was educated in Brandon, Manitoba, and Toronto, Ontario. He served as a gunner in the Second World War, and thereafter taught in both the Netherlands and in England. He returned to Canada in 1946 and started his teaching career at St. Thomas Collegiate Institute.

In 1964, he became vice-principal of St. Thomas Collegiate Institute, and after it closed in 1967 he attained the same position in Parkside Collegiate before becoming its principal in 1969, a position from which retired in 1972.



*St. Thomas Public Library, 1974*

Aside from teaching, George was involved in many community activities. He served on the St. Thomas Public Library Board for more than a decade, from 1979 to 1991. He and his wife were involved in the formation of the Elgin Theatre Guild, and both performed in and directed several productions. His longstanding involvement with the Elgin Historical Society began in 1966 and continued until 1995.

In addition, he was active on behalf of the Elgin Military Museum, the Ontario Historical Society, the Elgin County Board of Education and other organizations

Among other publications, he contributed to the following as author, editor, or co-author:

- St. Thomas: 100 Years a City
- Essays on Elgin County by Frank Hunt
- A Brief History of Secondary Education in St. Thomas
- Garrett Oakes, Tales of a Pioneer
- Letters and Petitions and Other Papers Concerning the Militia Companies of Middlesex for 1839
- Myth and Reality : The Chisolm Family in Elgin County 1819-1835

He passed away January 11, 1997.