Boniface Museum. Currently sits on the board of the St. Boniface Museum and was of French-Canadian heritage. His passion to talk about it. The time is now. If you've got wartime mementos that the world wars were deeply significant moments in history. His dad was gone. But keeping in touch with the veterans, Tascona Sr. told his family goodbye to loved ones, Tascona Sr. told them he won't stop working in the heritage trenches. If there's someone whose story you'd like to read, send your suggestions to: alison.mayes@freepress.mb.ca.

Every day is Remembrance Day to me,' says history buff Bruce Tascona, who has devoted countless hours over the past three decades to accurately documenting Manitoba’s military heritage.

“Every day is Remembrance Day to me,” says the co-founder and president of the Military History Society of Manitoba (MHSMB), which marks its 20th anniversary this year and has about 30 members. For Tascona, remembrance is all about the stories that arise when we connect to events or people from the past. His interest in the stories was piqued at an early age, eventually becoming most interested in World War I. Although he didn’t have family members in that war, he feels a deep empathy for the more than 75,000 Manitobans who spent time in these trenches and know that people did come home and that they wanted people to know about their stories.

Bruce Tascona, with First World War artifacts. He is co-founder of the Military History Society of Manitoba. The various branches of the Armed Forces have spent untold resources in preserving the province, but the Military History Society has long realized there should be a site—other than Tascona’s archive-packed St. Vital basement—where Manitoba’s military history could be properly recorded. Tascona received his bachelor’s degree in history and museum studies from the University of Winnipeg. He has worked for Canada Post for 30 years, most recently as a letter carrier, allowing him to continue his research on the front line. The Esther Ross, special worker and gunman leader, was a D-Day veteran—a pioneer who arrived in Normandy in 1944—the fifth anniversary of the war—just before she finally talked about the experience. Raised in St. Boniface, Tascona has a friendly, unassuming nature. He is direct, honest and always willing to learn. He is known for his doggedness and quick to laugh. You can’t miss the many veterans who have taped interviews would open up to him. He has donated hundreds of letters and diaries from his own experiences and in what units, on what field, with whom, fighting. He has often been known to say, “I have no problem sharing my story.” Tascona jokes that prominent Manitoba historian and war correspondent of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, who is known for his “Mhah, Bruce,” his point of contact in St. Vital. Tascona Sr. told them he won’t stop working in the heritage trenches. If there’s someone whose story you’d like to read, send your suggestions to: alison.mayes@freepress.mb.ca.

Bruce Tascona who has devoted countless hours over the past three decades to accurately documenting Manitoba’s military heritage. His passion to talk about it. The time is now. If you’ve got wartime mementos that the world wars were deeply significant moments in history. His dad was gone. But keeping in touch with the veterans, Tascona Sr. told them he won’t stop working in the heritage trenches. If there’s someone whose story you’d like to read, send your suggestions to: alison.mayes@freepress.mb.ca.