

Third Annual Report
of the
Waterloo Historical
Society



Nineteen-Fifteen

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
of the
WATERLOO HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



BERLIN, CANADA
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY
1915

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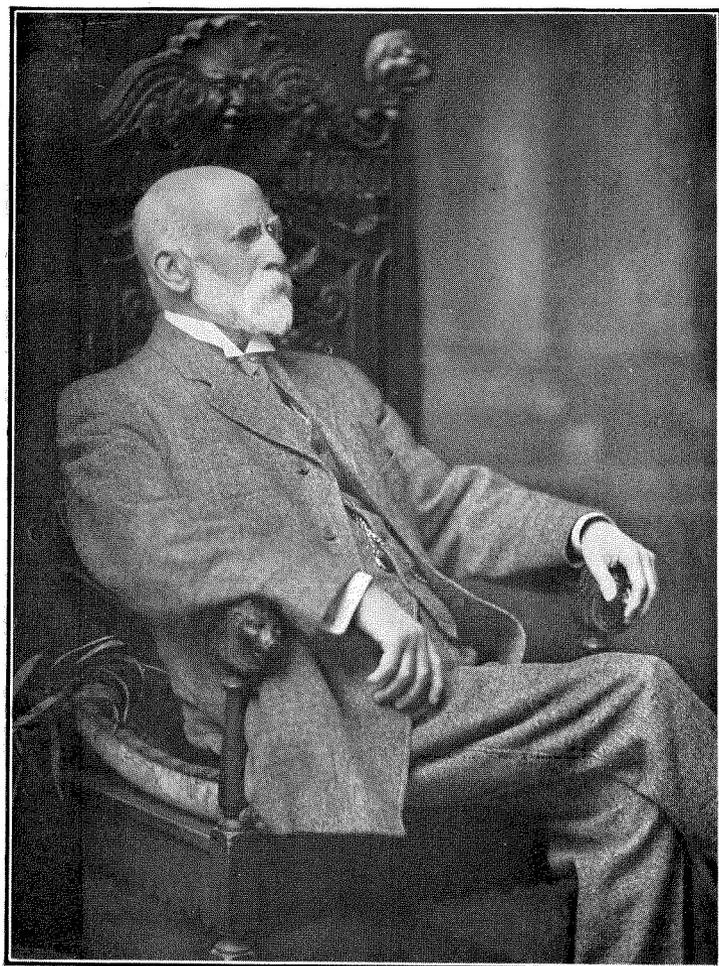
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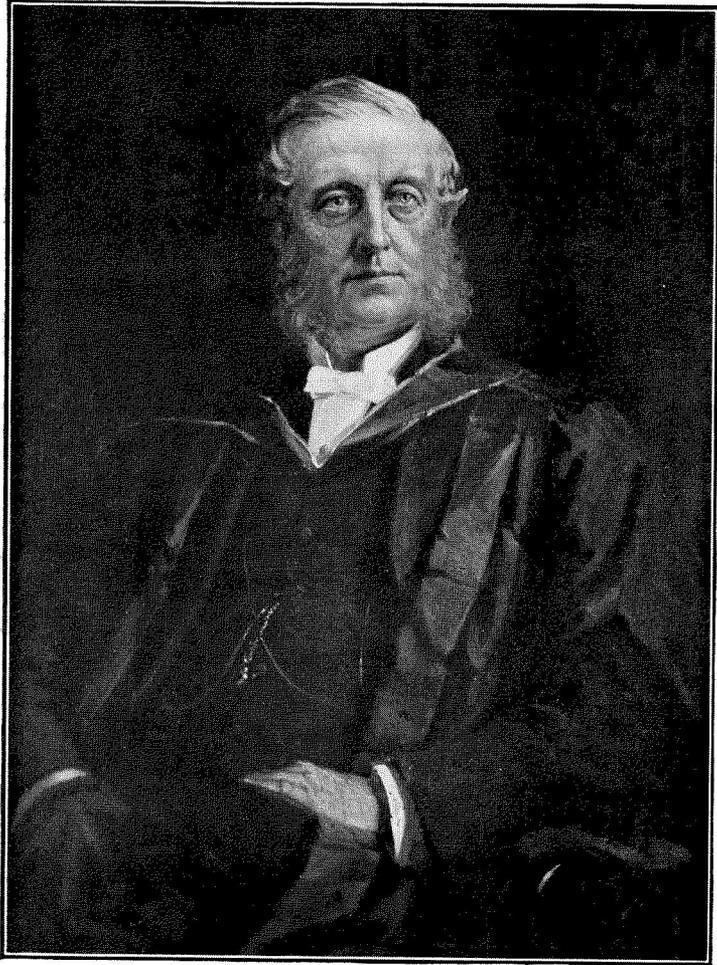
JUDGE C. R. HANNING.

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Thomas Pearce



William Tassie, M. A., L. L. D.

Annual Meeting

Berlin, Dec. 3rd, 1915.

The Third Annual Meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society was held in the Museum in the Public Library on the above date, the President, W. H. Breithaupt, in the chair.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report.

Berlin, Dec. 3rd, 1915.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

I have the honour of presenting to you the Third Annual Report of the Waterloo Historical Society for the year 1915.

The work of the Society has made considerable progress during the past year and important donations and additions have been made to the collection in the Museum.

More people than ever have shown an interest in the work we are doing, and it is with much pleasure that I report a much larger membership than we had last year.

We rejoice in having secured such splendid quarters. The Berlin Public Library Board deserve all the credit, for in no uncertain manner have they shown their co-operation and interest in the Society's welfare.

Lecture.

The Society was fortunate this year in securing Mr. Clarence M. Warner of Napanee for an address on Tuesday evening, April 6th.

Mr. Warner spoke on "One Aspect of the Century of Peace." The address was an excellent and impressive presentation of the subject, the result of considerable research. The speaker showed how the United States, Great Britain and Canada and their people really felt toward each other on or about the close of 1839, 1864 and 1889. Special attention was given to the relations between the United States and Canada at these periods.

In closing the speaker said: "The last century was filled with difficult problems which had to be settled. It started wrong and unfortunately these two countries were not particularly anxious to meet each other's views and discuss differences in an amicable manner. A national and united spirit in each country was really necessary before much in the form of a permanent international good feeling could be developed.

"As the years go by, may we all strive to maintain that harmony which exists at the present time, and may those who follow us have no cause for not celebrating all peace anniversaries."

Donations.

A list of donations to the Society during the year appears elsewhere. We are now in an excellent position as regards

space for taking care of donations of every kind, and we welcome any relating to the history of the early settlement, as well as any documents, maps, charts, and articles that will assist in illustrating various phases of the subsequent industrial and social progress and development of the County of Waterloo.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR YEAR 1915.

Receipts for 1915:

Balance 31st Dec., 1914	\$ 41.38
Members' Fees	\$ 87.00
Legislative Grant	100.00
Waterloo County Can. Club	11.25
Berlin Public School Board	15.00
Sale of Reports of 1914	2.75 216.00
	<hr/>
	\$257.38

Disbursements for 1915:

Postage, Stationery, etc.	\$ 13.35
Repairs	1.75
Lecture	5.00
Book Binding	1.75
Advertising and Printing	44.00
Copyright, Photos, etc.	5.95
Telephone and Express	2.10
Travelling	2.00
Caretaker two years, 1914-15	10.00
Rents	14.00
Secretary, two years, 1914-1915	60.00
Third Annual Report	68.00
	<hr/>
	\$227.90

Balance on hand\$ 29.48

SCULLY & SCULLY,
Auditors.

Berlin, Ont., 19th Jan., 1916.

Election of Officers.

The officers for 1916 are:

President.....W. H. Breithaupt
Vice-President Rev. Theo. Spetz
Secretary-Treasurer P. Fischer

Local Vice-Presidents.

Galt James E. Kerr
Waterloo Chas. Ruby
St. Jacobs John L. Wideman

Members of the Council are: Lieut.-Col. H. J. Bowman,
Capt. G. H. Bowlby, M.D., W. J. Motz, M.A., Judge C. R.
Hanning, C. H. Mills, M.P.P.

Change in the Constitution.

On motion of Alex. Millar, seconded by P. Fischer, the Constitution was amended so that an audited statement of receipts and disbursements will be prepared by December 31st each year, to be included in the Annual Report of the year.

President's Address

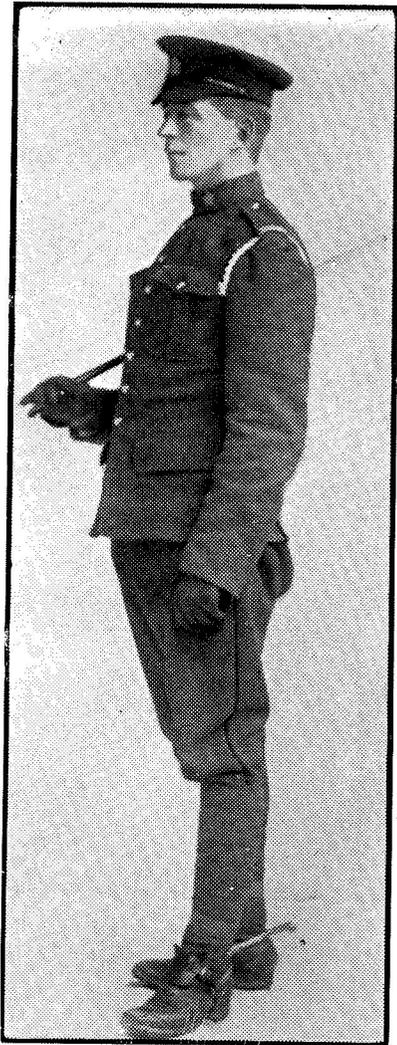
After delay of more than a month waiting for completion of new quarters to be used by the Society we are at last enabled to have our meeting in this room, which, as you will note, is practically completed, though some little details remain to be done. It has been the Society's aim to have a fireproof place for a museum. In building the new extension to the Berlin Public Library (as spoken of last year) it was recognized that a fireproof room would be desirable for the purposes of the Library itself, and it was decided on. This large and commodious room is closed off from the rest of the building by solid walls and fireproof door, and by an overhead floor of heavy steel beam and concrete construction; the window sash are steel, glazed with wire glass, and the floor of the room is of special construction, fireproof and damp proof. Convenient access, directly from the outside of the building, by the side entrance vestibule, is a further advantage. The room is for the time being, and probably as long as the Society may require to occupy it, given over to the use of the Waterloo Historical Society. Some day, sooner or later, this great and important County of Waterloo, historically venerable and materially great, will require better County buildings. When that time arrives we expect to see provided larger and more commodious quarters for this Society, let us say a dignified and properly equipped building by itself. One great desideratum is now attained. We can with confidence ask for old family heirlooms and family papers pertaining to the history of Waterloo and give assurance that here they will be imperishable, secure against destruction.

It has not yet grown customary for this Society to have many meetings during the year, its purpose being more one of collection and preservation of historic material. During the year there was one general meeting, on April 6th, when the President of the Ontario Historical Society, Mr. C. M. Warner of Napanee, was kind enough to visit us and give us an address, as already reported by the Secretary. The regular annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society was cancelled this year on account of the war. There was, however, a business and brief general meeting on June 2nd, which your President attended, as representing the Waterloo Historical Society.

For over a year now the great overmastering event in the world's history has been a devastating war which, though its fields of carnage are thousands of miles away, most vitally affects us here in Waterloo County as an integral part of the vast, far flung, world-encircling British Empire. Notwithstanding descent of many of us from a country and people now hostile, we refuse to stand second, in loyalty and sacrifice, to any part of the British Dominions. From this, for many years after its beginning almost wholly German settlement, men have

Alexander Ralph Eby, of the Fifth Battalion, First Canadian Contingent, born in Berlin, Ontario, 1891, killed in action March 20th, 1915, descendant, in line of oldest sons in each generation, of Bishop Benjamin Eby, founder of Berlin and one of the first settlers in this locality.

Bishop Benjamin Eby's oldest son was Isaac Eby; Isaac Eby's oldest son was Menno Eby, who married a German, Elizabeth Becker. Menno Eby's oldest son was Alexander Eby, who married an English-woman, Nellie Watson, and their oldest son was Alexander Ralph Eby, with whose death the line in direct descent of oldest sons from Bishop Benjamin Eby becomes extinct. The early Mennonite settlers refused on religious principles to carry arms in war. In the war of 1812 a number of them took part as teamsters.



Pte. Alexander Ralph Eby

Capt. G. H. Bowlby, M.D., a member of the Council of this Society, was commissioned in July last and is active in hospital service at Shorncliffe, England.

Col. Hilkiah Martin was for many years, 1892 to 1905, in the old 29th Waterloo Regiment, in which he rose from private to Lieut.-Colonel. At the opening of the war he was on the reserve of officers. He enlisted for overseas service in the 71st Battalion, C. E. F., Aug. 30th, 1915, commanding "C" Company. Later he was transferred, and is now second in command 118th Batt., C. E. F.

Major B. Osborne, formerly of Grey's Horse, went with the first contingent and has recently returned on leave. Of the same contingent there have returned wounded Private Robert A. Seibert, Corporal Edgar Wackett and Private Herbert W. White.

No deaths in the war have as yet occurred among men who went from Berlin. A Berlin man, Ralph Eby, who enlisted from Swift Current, Sask., was killed in action March 20th, 1915, probably at Neuve Chapelle.

In South Waterloo, Galt is headquarters, and has four companies, of the 29th Highland Light Infantry of Canada, formerly the 29th Waterloo Regiment.

The officers are:

*Lieut.-Colonel A. J. Oliver, Lieut.-Colonel J. D. Clarke.

*Major A. J. Windell.

Captains J. Limpert, L. W. Johnston, A. Hills, C. D. Campbell, *J. N. MacRae, *R. G. Elliott, *R. W. Meikleham, N. D. MacKenzie, *R. R. Brown, D. McLennan, *J. A. McIntosh.

Lieutenants H. W. DeGuerre, *R. McC. M. Gray, R. L. McGill, W. C. Glennie, E. W. Menger, M. Cumming, *D. M. Northcombe, H. C. Rounds, *W. J. Pratt, *T. R. Coleman, J. F. Welland, *W. H. Macauley, *J. Rutherford, *A. E. Keen, *H. H. Pratt, *G. W. Jupp, F. J. Welland.

*Gone to the war.

Twenty-seven officers and men are dead, as follows:

Lieut. Ross D. Briscoe, accidentally killed at Salisbury Plain.

Captain Thomas Downey Lockhart, killed at Langemarck, April 23rd.

Private Edward Callan, Preston.

Private Percy Walley, accidentally killed at Guelph, March 11th.

Private John E. Gahagan, accidentally killed at Guelph, March 11th.

Private John Robert Jeffs, died of pneumonia, Galt, March 17th.

Private Peter Nelson.

Private George Simmers, at Givenchy, June 15th.
Private William Adams, Preston, died of wounds, May 10.
Platoon Sergeant Ernest J. Rowe.
Private A. E. Butcher, Hespeler, died of wounds.
Corporal Henry Charles Brade.
Private James Leith.
Private Walter Payne, at Langemarck.
Private John Lynn Pattinson, Givenchy, June 15th.
Private George Barnes.
Private Ed. J. Sutton.
Private Arthur Arber, Preston, at Givenchy, June 15th.
Private James H. Reid.
Sergeant William J. Pratt, at Givenchy, June 15th.
Lance Corporal Charles Haskell.
Private William Johnson, at Givenchy, June 15th.
Private John McConnell Maley, Givenchy, June 15th.
Private John D. Anderson, Givenchy, June 15th.
Private, J. Carrol, Hespeler.
Corporal Knight.
Private Arthur Harold White, died of wounds.

42 men have been wounded, one of them, Lance Corporal William Whitla, won the Distinguished Service Medal for gallantry at Langemarck.

Eight men are missing, as follows:

Sergeant Edward Bird.
Corporal Hugh Cleave, after action of Givenchy.
Private Ivan Hector Thomas, after action of Givenchy.
Private Alfred Hawkins, after action of Givenchy.
Private George A. Jones.
Private George Charles Barker.
Private L. Peterson.
Private William Bowie.

(Report by Lt.-Col. Clarke.)

In Ayr there is a local company of the 29th Highland Infantry Regiment, with officers:

Captain H. Snell.
Lieutenants J. T. Gillies and A. Lewis.

There have gone to the war:

With 1st Contingent—Captain E. C. Goldie and two men:
Private H. Griffin, Sapper C. Kendall.

With 2nd Contingent—Three men: Privates Rathe, Prodder and Hulley.

With 3rd Contingent—Two men: Privates Upton and G. McKellow.

With 4th Contingent—Seventeen men: H. Rutherford, G. Dear, G. Last, H. Clarke, Pritcher, Ryan, Brandon, Britton, P.



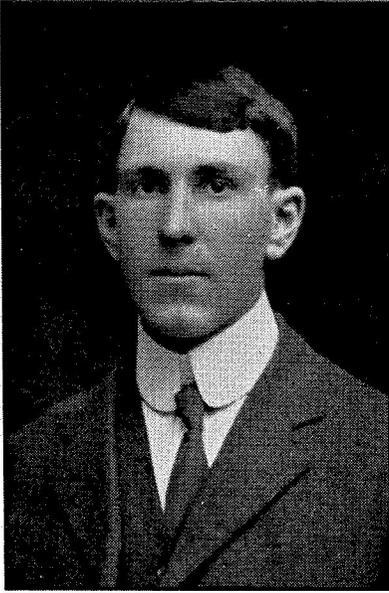
Captain Thomas D. Lockhart



Lieut. Ross D. Briscoe

Captain Thomas Downey Lockhart, officer commanding Galt detachment with first contingent, killed in the battle of Langemarck, Friday, April 23rd, was born in Scotland, coming to Canada when a young lad. At the time of enlisting he was 35 years of age and previous to coming to Galt, had resided in Toronto. He came to Galt as a member of the firm of Norris & Lockhart, plumbers, but later became the head of the firm of T. Lockhart & Co. He was prominent in curling and bowling circles and was a member of the Masonic order. He met his death gallantly leading his platoon in a charge against the enemy, when he received his fatal wound, succumbing within half an hour. His brother Archie is with the 118th Battalion, Berlin.

Lieut. Ross D. Briscoe enlisted with the First Battalion and was transferred to the 9th Battalion. He was killed at Salisbury Plains by accident. He was the son of Mr. R. A. Briscoe, a Galt dry goods merchant.



Pte. John Lynn Pattinson

Pte. John Lynn Pattinson was killed at Givenchy, June 18th. He was one of the first to join the colors, and was a son of Mr. Geo. Pattinson, former M.P.P., of Preston. He was born in Preston, was unmarried, and had attained his 31st year.



Corporal William Whitla

Corporal William Whitla enlisted with the First Canadian Contingent overseas, and was reported wounded on April 30th, 1915. He was awarded the Military Cross for bravery on the battlefield. He is a native of Newtonards, Ireland, and has been a resident of Galt for three years.

Carter, B. Styles, J. Elson, W. Short, G. Birchall, C. Birley, G. Hughson, W. Patterson, G. Puttock.

None have been killed in action as yet, though Sapper Kendall has returned ill from effects of gas.

(Report by Lieut. Gillies.)

From Preston there is a list of 147 officers and men who went with the first and later contingents. Many of them are included in the report from Galt. The Preston Band alone supplied 19 men, two of whom, Edward Callan and Archie P. Housler, are among the killed. Private Callan went with the first contingent and was the first man of the Regiment to fall in action, and that in the first action in which the Regiment engaged.

On Friday, Sept. 17th last, General Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, visited Berlin and was enthusiastically received. There were addresses at the City Hall; a flying trip, in the afternoon, to Doon for a view of the Valcartier paintings for which Mr. Homer Watson, R.C.A., had been commissioned, and to Galt; and in the evening dinner at the Grand River Country Club, near Berlin, the officers of the 108th Regiment being the hosts. Later in the evening the General gave an address to a capacity audience at the Auditorium, Berlin.

A new battalion, the 111th, has also recently been put in formation in South Waterloo, under Lieut.-Col. J. D. Clarke, and is rapidly filling up.

The deaths of three members of the Society occurred during the year.

John A. Rittinger, born in Berlin, Ont., February 16, 1855, died here July 29th. For 29 years, 1875 to 1904, he was active on and became proprietor of the German weekly paper, the Walkerton "Glocke," and was well known throughout the Counties of Bruce and Grey as the "Glockemann." In 1904 the "Glocke" was combined with the Berliner Journal when Mr. Rittinger returned here and became member, as was his father before him, of the firm of Rittinger and Motz, and was active, until his untimely death, as editor of the Journal. Mr. Rittinger took keen interest in the formation of this Society. His accumulated volumes of the "Glocke" have passed into possession of the Society.

Allen Huber was born here in 1847 and died here October 3rd last. Mr. Huber was in many respects a remarkable man, if somewhat eccentric. He was of an old Waterloo Pennsylvania German family and was Mayor of Berlin in 1908. Mr. Huber was of very material assistance in the work of this Society, and secured for us severable valuable additions to the museum, among them the Weber waggon of 1807.

An excellent paper in the Society's 1914 report was contributed by the veteran School Inspector, Thomas Pearce, whose death has now occurred, within a week; on last Saturday afternoon, Nov. 27th. A year ago Mr. Pearce was in fairly robust health. A fall, in his house, appears to have been the beginning of a breakdown of vital energies. His biography, notes for which were, after much urging, contributed by himself, appears in the Society's 1914 report. Mr. Pearce was a highly esteemed member of this Society, in which he took keen interest. He retained vigor and tranquility of mind to the end. Shortly before his death he expressed himself, to an old-time pupil, visiting him, as satisfied with his life's work, which had greatly interested him, and as ready to pass beyond earthly things, now that his work was done. In the educational history of Waterloo County the name of Thomas Pearce will remain among the few of highest distinction.

Before going to press, Mrs. Pearce, wife of Thomas Pearce, has also died, December 17th.

The newspaper history of Waterloo County, spoken of in my address of last year, will still have to hold over.

The first settlers in what became Waterloo Township, Joseph Schoerg and Samuel Betzner, arrived in the spring of the year 1800. Schoerg's wife was Betzner's sister. She was twice married, first to a brother of Schoerg, who died in Pennsylvania, by whom she had one son, Samuel, who settled about two miles south of Breslau in 1815. There, in 1832, was born the Rev. A. B. Sherk, now of Toronto, who is with us and has kindly agreed to give us Reminiscences of Waterloo County this evening. He well remembers his granduncles (his grandmother died earlier), the settlers of 1800, and thus spans the entire period, one hundred and fifteen years, of the history of Waterloo County.

Probably the most widely known boys' school in Canada in its day was the Galt Grammar School under Dr. Tassie. One of Dr. Tassie's early pupils, and inmate of his house for four years, Mr. James Kerr of Galt, now one of the Vice-Presidents of this Society, will give us a paper on the renowned Tassie's School.

The final paper on our somewhat ambitious programme for this evening is by a former, and at the time of his story very youthful, member of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, who will tell us of the Battle of Ridgeway. Captain McCallum has been for many years a resident of New Hamburg.

Recollections of Early Waterloo

(By Rev. A. B. Sherk)

In 1791 by British Act of Parliament, Canada was made into two Provinces. To the eastern division it gave the name of Lower Canada, to the western the name of Upper Canada. Gen. John Graves Simcoe was appointed the first Governor of the New Province of Upper Canada; and he opened the first Parliament of this Province Sept. 17, 1792, at Newark, now Niagara-on-the-Lake. This Parliament was made up of sixteen members, a proof that considerable progress had already been made in the settlement of the country. But the settlements were along the great rivers and lakes, while the back country remained a dense forest. The first settlers were largely made up of strict U. E. Loyalists; that is, men who had fought for the British Crown in the revolutionary struggle. No sooner had a government been organized when it began to dawn on the people south of the boundary line that the new Province was a vast territory of fine forests and rich soil, with a climate quite as mild as the best sections of the New England States. Soon many crossed the line and settled in the new country. Some came as adventurers, as is always the case under similar circumstances, but large numbers came to select land and build homes for themselves. The Pennsylvania Germans belong to this class. Some of these came to the Niagara Peninsula directly after the close of the Revolutionary war, and before the end of the eighteenth century had comfortable homes in this district. These homes became stopping places for those who came later. We mention the names of Christian Hershey and John Miller (known as Johnny) as two of these early stopping places. Their homes fronted the Niagara River, within a few miles of the present town of Bridgeburg. My venerable grandfather found a shelter for himself and family in a vacant house of Christian Hershey, from the Fall of 1799 to the Spring of 1800.

We have not been able to learn the year when the first Pennsylvania Germans found their way to York County, but it was early in the century, for one Casper Sherk settled in the Township of Markham in 1804. Still others may have preceded him. There is no doubt about the Waterloo settlement. In the spring of 1800, one hundred and fifteen years ago, the two pioneers, Samuel Betzner and Joseph Sherk, found their way to the wilderness of Waterloo, and selected homes on the Grand River, the one opposite Doon, the other at Blair.

Waterloo was the first colony in the interior of Upper Canada and was, at one time part of the Mohawk Reservation. This Reservation took in six miles on each side of the Grand River from its mouth at Lake Erie, to the Falls at Elora. This was first arranged by Governor Haldimand with Captain Brant in 1784. "Another Reserve was assigned the Mohawk tribe of Indians on the Grand River by Governor Simcoe on the 14th January, 1793." (Reed's Life of Simcoe, P. 143). Probably the Simcoe deal is the present Reservation. Soon after this the tract of land later called Waterloo came under the control of a Mr. Beasley, by whom it was put on the market. To reach this district the two pioneers had to go from Ancaster to Brantford and then follow the Indian trail along the Grand River for 30 miles. In looking back at the courage of the two Pennsylvania Pilgrims we are impressed that they were led by a Divine hand. Here they brought their wives and children, conquered unnamable difficulties, and in the course of years secured comfortable homes. Later in the year 1800 a few more families took up land in the infant settlement and added to the cheer of the two who had preceded them. Each year the number increased, and at the end of ten years Waterloo had already a large thriving colony of Pennsylvanians. The growth continued, for years there was a steady inflow of settlers from the old Key-Stone State, and by the end of the first quarter of a century the Waterloo settlement had

become one of the largest, most thriving and most influential in the Province of Upper Canada.

Now a few more words about the two pioneers. Betzner, who at first located at Blair, sold his farm after some years, moved to the Township of Flamboro West, within a few miles of the Town of Dundas. Here he lived in comfort and plenty, loved and honoured for his Christian nobility, and died when he was up in the eighties. Sherk lived on the farm he homesteaded till 1855, when, at the age of 86 he passed joyfully to his heavenly rest. Sherk was both uncle and step-father of my father, whose mother he married after the early death, in Pennsylvania, of my grandfather. Betzner was my grandmother's brother, and therefore also my father's uncle. As a boy and a young man, I knew the old patriarchs well, loved and revered them, but I never heard them refer to the part they had taken in opening up this great country. They were too modest and simple hearted to think they had done anything beyond the ordinary. They came here as homeseekers, found homes, enjoyed them, left the legacy of spotless lives to their descendants, and that was enough.

We will now look at a few of the difficulties from which young Waterloo had to suffer.

(a) In the very infancy of the colony (1803) the settlers learned that the land for which they held Deeds was under Mortgage. The discovery unsettled matters for a while. The Richard Beasley Tract, of which their farms formed a part, had an area of a little over 94,000 acres, against which there was a Mortgage of \$20,000. This was an enormous sum at that time, and these settlers knew unless it was soon met, the debt must strangle the young colony. They were of the Mennonite faith, and after much counsel they decided to send a delegation of two to the churches of Pennsylvania and ask their help. Joseph Sherk and Samuel Bricker were chosen. For some time they got no encouragement, and Sherk returned to his home in Waterloo, utterly discouraged. Bricker, who was of a different temper, decided to stay longer, and lay the case before his brethren in Lancaster County. Here a church meeting was called, the situation fully discussed, and it ended in the organization of a Joint Stock Company, and the amount needed was subscribed before the church meeting adjourned. Then the Stockholders generously provided a horse and buggy (primitive style), and a young brother was chosen to accompany Bricker on his return to Canada. The money, all in silver dollars, was packed in little sacks, placed in the buggy, carried 500 miles through the wilderness, paid over to William Dickson of Niagara, the Mortgage cancelled, and 60,000 acres was taken over by the Lancaster Company of Pennsylvania. This was in May, 1804. Once more there was joy in the hearts of the struggling settlers of early Waterloo.

(b) Another difficulty was the war of 1812 with its dark shadow. Of course this stopped the migration of Pennsylvanians while the war lasted, and arrested its growth. As Mennonites they were non-combatants in faith, but at the same time in sympathy with British institutions. Indeed some of the older ones were legitimate British subjects, being born before the Revolutionary war. At any rate none of them were ever accused or even suspected of disloyalty to the country. Some have proposed to call them late U. E.'s, but perhaps it would be better to call them non-combatant U. E.'s. Their loyalty was tested, and found to be genuine.

(c) The war was followed by summer frosts. In 1816 there were frosts every month of the summer, and this left the people little to live upon. Eby, the historian, says the frosts of the summer of 1817 were nearly as destructive as those of the previous summer. But by this time the colony had a good deal of strength, and the people were prepared to help those who were in want, and so the trouble passed over without extreme suffering or actual want. It was not like the year some time previous to this called the "hungry year," when there was actual starvation in the Niagara District.

By these preliminary remarks I have just been preparing the way

to give some recollections of early Waterloo. In these recollections I will take you back 75 years, when I was a lad of eight years. I shall specially emphasize the part the Pennsylvania Germans took in the settlement, growth and development of Waterloo. Allow me to say that they were the only element in what is now the County of Waterloo till 1816. In that year Scotch settlers began to take possession of the Township of Dumfries. They had for their leader Absalom Shade, agent for William Dickson. Mr. Shade was also a Pennsylvanian. He remained in Galt, became wealthy, sat in the Upper Canada Assembly, and died when far on in years.

European Germans began to come into Waterloo about the beginning of the second quarter of the 19th century, but they were mostly tradesmen—tailors, shoemakers, masons, etc., and usually settled in the villages; yet they became an important factor in the growth and development of the industrial life of Waterloo.

My recollections of Waterloo relate mostly to the country life, which was then a life of almost primitive simplicity. Indeed it was the simple life and to a large extent still life in the "bush."

In early Waterloo the farms were usually large, containing two, three, and even four hundred acres. On these farms there were commonly large clearings made in the course of years, and still large areas of wilderness left over. We might say there was a farm and a wilderness on the same lot. My father's farm, taken up by him in 1815, about two miles south of what became Breslau, where I was born in 1832, consisted of 348 acres in one block. Perhaps there were 125 acres cleared, it may be more. Still there was bush to the north, bush to the east, bush to the south, with the Grand River as the boundary to the west. The buildings were located on the south end of the farm; and probably within 40 rods of the river on the brow of the slope; but there was not a neighbor's building in sight. Sometimes we could hear a neighbor call his dog; and in summer time we could often hear the dinner horn of neighbors. But then the denizens of the forest helped to make things lively for us. At certain seasons of the year, as nightfall came on we might hear the yelp of the fox, the hooting of the owl, and the howl of the wolf. In summer time the music of the feathery songsters was fine, and we music-loving boys enjoyed it. Our location and condition were typical of many others in the Waterloo colony. There was isolation, but we boys did not seem to realize it. There was one thing that greatly relieved the situation, the public road on the east side of the river ran through our farm, and we daily saw the teams going to and from market, early and late.

Farm life then differed greatly from farm life now. Farmers were then, as it were, making farms. Now they are made. Then they usually added a few acres to their clearing each year by cutting down and removing the timber. In those days there was very little market for firewood, even when it was cut into cord-wood. Some helped their income by turning hard wood into charcoal. For this there was then some market among waggon makers, tinsmiths, and blacksmiths, for "Stone Coal" as it was called had not yet come into use in our country. Indeed it was not needed. When the timber was removed by burning it up, one crop of grain as a rule was raised on the new clearing, then it was "seeded down," and left in sod for five or six years to let the roots of the stumps rot. Then the stumps were removed, which was to some extent a second clearing. To have a fully cleared farm in a bush country meant years of working, and watching, and waiting.

Farm work in the early days was hard work, and we expected it would remain so; no one then dreamed of running a farm by machinery. The tools for the hay and harvest field were the scythe, the hand rake, the pitch fork, the sickle and the cradle. Longer hours and more men were then needed to do the work and gather the fruits of the summer; we worked early and late, that is how we got along. The threshing of the grain was left for Fall and Winter. This was more tedious than the harvesting, but I will not go into details.

Let us now turn aside a little from what you might call the slowness and dullness of old farm life, and observe that there was activity and enterprise in other directions. The mills, grist and flouring, were a marked feature of the times, and did much to help on the country's development. In this city (Berlin) you have a suburban trolley running to the village of Bridgeport. This reminds me that 75 years ago Bridgeport was a great business place; indeed I have been told it did more business than the then village of Berlin. Jacob Shoemaker was the active spirit in the business life of the place. He had a large grist and flouring mill, sawmill, woollen mill, oil mill and general store. There were also a store and other business interests on the other side of the Grand River, indeed the east side was called Bridgeport, and the west side Glasgow. I remember when Shoemaker had two teams constantly on the road taking flour to Dundas, the nearest shipping port, a distance of 35 miles or more. But there were many other mills, probably as good as the Glasgow Mill. There was Snyder's Mill at Waterloo, Fisher's Mill on the Speed, Erb's Mill at Preston, Bowman and Bechtel's Mills at Blair, the Doon Mill, the Aberdeen Mill, the German Mill, the St. Jacob's and Conestogo Mills. These mills were all run by water power, and were among the best mills on the continent. The old mills prove to us that there was business ability and enterprise in the Pennsylvania Germans of early days.

To get the grain and flour to market required many teams; indeed the teams did then what the railways do now. This made lively times on our great thoroughfares. The way to market was the macadamized road from Preston and Galt to Dundas. At certain seasons of the year one could count teams by the score going to market with the product of the farm or the mill. And along this line of travel there was a public house every few miles, the proprietors of which did a thriving business.

Let us come back to early farm life again. On every farm of any size there was always a flock of sheep. The sheep were a necessity, as the wool was required for the clothing and bedding of the family in winter time. The farmer's sheep had to be looked after with great care, folded at night, and watched by day, lest a sly wolf should destroy some of the flock. Farmers also had to raise a crop of flax yearly for summer clothing and bedding. To get the woollen goods ready for winter use was a part of the summer's work and to get the linen goods ready for the summer use was part of the winter's work. This called for much hard work by the men and women that the farmers' families do not need to do these days.

Then in early winter the itinerant tailor would come to the houses of the people and make up the woollen garments for the family. For this work he got 75 cents a day and his board. A seamstress was commonly employed for the women, and was thought to be well paid at \$1.50 a week and board. Those were cheap days, but the people were well satisfied and prospered.

There were very few boots and shoes sold in the stores in the early days. In the fall of the year when the leather was brought home from the local tannery the itinerant shoemaker would be notified that he was wanted. At the set time he would appear with his kit of tools and make up the boots and shoes for the family. These home-made boots and shoes were substantial and did good service. The shoemaker's remuneration was about the same as that of the tailor.

The early Waterloo men had a good deal of mechanical skill. Probably this was born of necessity. Most of them could make a harrow (wooden of course), replace a broken plow beam (also wooden), make a gate, and do most of the repairs needed about the home. The axe, the saw, the auger, with the square and a few chisels were their principal tools. They believed in and practised self-help.

One of the notable features of early Waterloo was the fine farm buildings, especially the barns with their basement stables. These barns were usually built against a side hill, and for this reason, I presume, were called "bank barns." I am told the idea came from

Switzerland, and some call them "Swiss barns." Sixty years ago one would find very few of these barns outside of a Pennsylvania community, but now they are common among the best farmers of our country.

Let us now look at the intimate connection of the Mennonite Church with Waterloo history. The Pennsylvania colony that took possession of Waterloo was distinctly a Mennonite colony. By this I mean it was mostly composed of members and adherents of that church. I would not say that there was a prearranged plan to have it so, the movement was doubtless quite spontaneous. As the colony grew the church grew, and to meet the wants of the people substantial houses of worship were put up in every part of the Township, and in many districts in other townships. Indeed, for many years the Mennonites were the predominating Christian element among the Waterloo Pennsylvanians and their descendants. Their public services for several generations were all in German. This left the English-speaking settlers untouched so far as church service was concerned, and was doubtless a mistake.

The first Mennonite minister in Waterloo was Joseph Bechtel, who settled here in 1802. Benjamin Eby became Bishop in 1812, and was the guiding spirit of the denomination for many years, not only in Waterloo, but in Canada. The Bishop was a great friend of the Public School, and for many years taught school. His name is intimately associated with Waterloo during the first half century of its history.

Here I am impressed to say that the Pennsylvania Germans of Waterloo have a history peculiar to themselves. When they came to this new country they brought with them no pet political notions that they were anxious to propagate; indeed this was far from their thoughts. They came here to choose homes, to be true and loyal citizens of the country, to be, as Paul advises, subject to the powers that be. These people knew that British law recognized their distinguishing peculiarities as it did those of the Quakers, and they were welcomed to the citizenship of the country. And I am glad to say they have never forfeited the confidence with which they were received. In life and conduct they looked for the highest moral ideal, found this ideal in the teachings of our Lord and sought to live up to it. All must admit that their aim was right. How near they came to their ideal, it is not for me to say, but I do know that their impress is left on the history of this country. Their simplicity of dress and manner, their industry, their frugality, their honesty, their enterprise and their love of righteousness, have given them an influence and a prestige that will tell on future generations.

The Waterloo pioneers were anxious that their children should at least have the simple rudiments of an education. Eby, the historian, says a school was opened in 1802, where the Village of Blair is located. From this on the settlers were never without schools, although it was a great struggle to find teachers and rooms for scholars, and to pay teachers, small as the pay was. I remember when ten and twelve dollars a month was considered big pay for a teacher. Then the rule was for him to board around at the homes of the scholars. The summer term of a few months was usually taught by a lady. The text books were Webster's Spelling Book, New Testament, Murray's English Reader and Daboll's Arithmetic. German reading and writing were also taught when we had a teacher qualified to do so. The German text books were a spelling book and the New Testament. When Grammar and Geography were first introduced in our school (No. 15) it was thought by some to be a needless innovation.

But the transition to better schools and better teachers was bound to come in conservative Waterloo, and in my mind there are three names intimately associated with this transition: Amos Adams, Leander Brown and Benjamin Burkholder. I knew them all. Just what their scholastic attainments were I am not able to say, but I am sure they understood good English and knew how to teach it. Of the

early history of Adams and Brown I know very little, but I know that they gained a high reputation as teachers, and greatly helped the cause of education in Waterloo just at the time when it needed such help. We know more about the early history of Burkholder. He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1814, and was brought to Canada by his parents when four years old. He learned the trade of a printer and followed it for some time. Later Burkholder began his life's work as a teacher, and continued in the work till well on in years. He had the advantage of knowing the German as well as the English, which greatly helped him in his work. I am glad to pay this tribute of respect to the memory of these pioneer teachers. It seems sad that both Adams and Brown were suddenly taken away just as they had rightly entered upon their career of usefulness.

I will here add a word for the defunct Rockwood Academy which I attended in 1851 (often walking home, about twenty miles, Friday evening and back Monday morning.) Its gifted teacher, noble William Wetherald, the Quaker, did much, more than sixty years ago, to help a number of Waterloo boys in their struggle for an education. It was at Rockwood we learned to know the boy J. J. Hill, who has for many years been the greatest railway magnate in the American West.

A few names of men, professional and non-professional, who were prominent in early Waterloo suggest themselves. One was Squire Scollick, of Preston, whom everybody knew, for he did most of the marrying before the local clergy could legally do that service. Then there was Dr. Scott of Berlin and Dr. Folsom of Preston. These doctors did most of their outside professional work on horseback, and everybody knew them. To the above names we add the name of George Clemens, a well-known character in early days. We may speak of him as the successful farmer, the shrewd financier and the honorable business man. He was admired for his ready wit and cutting sarcasm. Eby says he "drove the first horse team that ever came through the Beverly Swamp." I also name Mr. Dodge, a kind of pre-historic character, who was one of the three fur traders that preceded the pioneer settlers. He took up a lot on the Grand River a little below Blair and lived to be nearly a hundred years old.

We remember a few old structures that were a part of Waterloo early history. One was the "Toll Bridge" over the Grand River at Freeport. Every man that drove a team across the bridge had to pay for the privilege and even a foot-man had to pay two cents to walk across. Another historic structure on the Grand River was the covered bridge at Blair. It had a roof over it after the manner of the bridges in southern Pennsylvania. The "ice jams" in the Grand River swept these old monuments away long years ago.

I must now name the Press as one of the great factors that helped the development of early Waterloo, but it did its work wholly in the German tongue. I find there was a succession of German newspapers in Berlin and Waterloo Village. (a) The earliest paper was called "Canada Museum." It was issued at Berlin in 1835 and continued for five years. The editor and proprietor was H. W. Peterson. (b) Contemporary with the "Museum" was the "Morgenstern." The proprietor, editor and printer of the "Morgenstern" was Benjamin Burkholder. Its home was a little beyond the Village of Waterloo, and it lived for two years, 1839-1841. (c) Henry Eby and Peter Enslin bought the "Morgenstern" press and began the issue of the "Deutsche Canadier" in 1841. The "Canadier" was well patronized by the German-speaking population, and did good work.

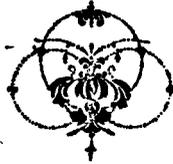
Preston came later with a succession of three German papers: (a) The first was called "Canadischer Beobachter," and made its appearance in 1848. After two years it was transferred to New Hamburg. Martin Rudolph was connected with the "Beobachter" both at Preston and New Hamburg. (b) Then came the "Bauernfreund" in 1853, with Abram A. Erb as proprietor and Martin Rudolph as editor. It also had a short history. (c) A third paper which took the old name

of "Beobachter" was issued in 1858 by Wm. C. Schlueter. Like its predecessors, its history was short.

This list shows a commendable enterprise in the right direction. The weekly visits of the local paper in the early times gave the people a new vision of things at home; but it also gave them a new and better view of things abroad. A good measure of praise is due the press for Waterloo's growth and prosperity.

In this paper I have confined my remarks chiefly to the early life of Waterloo Township, for this was and is yet the great centre of the Pennsylvania Germans and their descendants. I am sure the old fathers made a happy choice when they selected this section in which to plant a new colony. And, on the other hand, the new Province of Upper Canada was happy in securing such quiet, industrious, patriotic and wide-awake citizens as the Pennsylvania Germans proved themselves to be. They put their heads, their hands and their hearts to work to build up a prosperous community; and the foundation stone of this community was practical Christianity. I do not think I have overestimated their work or their worth.

But in the course of years there came a change. Other elements found their way into conservative Waterloo. The little villages of 75 years ago have grown into stirring towns and cities, alive with industrial energy and activity, the fruit of a higher type of civilization. Let the new Waterloo keep to the old foundations, then her prosperity and safety are assured for all time to come.



Recollections of My Schooldays at Tassie's

By James E. Kerr, Galt

It was in August, 1859, that my father, who then lived in Doon, sent me, a lad of twelve years, to the Grammar School at Galt. With the exception perhaps of Upper Canada College it was regarded as the best Preparatory School in the Province. This enviable reputation which it had acquired was entirely due to the merits of its headmaster, Mr. William Tassie, an M. A. of Toronto University, and afterwards, in 1871, honored with the degree of LL.D., conferred upon him by Queen's College, Kingston. Mr. Tassie was Principal of the school for twenty-eight years.

During the Tassie regime the school was much more than a local institution, for thither came from all parts of Canada and even distant places in the United States boys whose parents were desirous that their sons should receive the best educational training then available. In order to accommodate this large influx of pupils the Head Master found room in his own house for about forty boys, and about fifty or sixty were placed in houses in the town.

During the four years of my attendance at the school I boarded in Dr. Tassie's house. Though one of the largest houses in the town, for forty boys the accommodation was somewhat limited. A play-room was much needed, but, as the necessity of such a room had not been foreseen when the house was planned, we were obliged to betake ourselves to our bedrooms when the inclemency of the weather or other reasons prevented us from seeking recreation on the play-ground. The noise we made in our dormitories frequently brought us into trouble with Dr. Tassie, whom I am sure we very often disturbed, but who I think was not very severe with us considering the provocation we must have given him.

In Mrs. Tassie we found a never-failing friend. I shall never forget the kindness she showed to us, and I am glad that this opportunity is given me to pay this long-delayed tribute to her goodness of heart. When we were sick she nursed us with a mother's care. If we had coughs or colds she administered to us gruel or swathed our necks with hot cloths. To purify our blood she would dose us with sulphur and treacle. For every ailment she had some old-fashioned remedy. In person Mrs. Tassie was above the medium height and slight, the face pale, the hair dark, and the eyes black and piercing. Her voice was pleasant. She spoke with a slight brogue which betrayed her Irish birth. At nineteen she had married the handsome young teacher, who was the same age as herself, and sailed off with him to make her home in the wilds of Canada. Some people have said that it was a runaway match. I think this statement is not correct. At any rate the marriage turned out a happy one. Mrs. Tassie's maiden name was Sarah Morgan. She was a daughter of William Morgan, Dublin, and grand-daughter of Peter Burchell of Kiltel Castle, County Kildare. She died in Peterboro' in 1895.

At seven in the evening we were called in from our games to prepare the lessons for next day. I usually spent the larger part of my time puzzling out with the aid of a lexicon the twenty or thirty lines of Virgil or Horace which had been assigned for study. The translation was undertaken first, then the construction of the sentences, and lastly the division of the lines into metrical feet. Our translations were very bald and literal. Dr. Tassie made no attempt to show us the thought of the author or to point out the beauties of his style and the stress and strain of our endeavours to get the barest translation to hang together so as to make sense prevented us from seeing the felicities of diction of the author. There was no continuity about the translation. We did not go back to pick up the thread of the narrative that had been dropped the day before. Minute attention was, however, given to points in grammar or quantities in scansion and to the mythological allusions which were profusely scattered over

the text. The fortunes of the gods and goddesses, demi-gods and heroes, with their parentage, fightings, deeds and labors had to be memorized. While busy with our lessons the Master watched us closely, either from his desk or in walking about the room, to see if any were idling or scheming. At nine o'clock with a sigh of relief, though with a secret dread of the ordeal which awaited us on the morrow, we put our books back into our satchels, and after the reading of a portion of Scripture and prayer we were dismissed.

On Sunday we all attended the Church services. More than half of the boarders were Episcopalians. Dr. Michael Boomer was the English Church clergyman. I can recall nothing of his preaching, but I remember that he was a very fine reader. His reading of the Prayer Book and of the Scripture lessons was the best that I have ever heard. Old Knox Church which I attended was an exceedingly plain barnlike structure. In it the ideas of the old Scottish reformers in reference to church building had been carried out with a faithfulness that would have pleased the iconoclasts of John Knox's day.

Instead of a full holiday on Saturdays, Dr. Tassie thought it better to give us half holidays on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. Our amusements in summer were chiefly bathing and boating. The boys who were learning to swim went to the Mill Creek where the water was comparatively shallow, but when they were able to swim perhaps fifty yards they were allowed to bathe in the river near the school where the water was deep. Fortunately no drowning accidents ever occurred. Dr. Tassie had one or two rowboats for the use of the boarders, and many a half-holiday we spent upon the river which for a mile or more above the school was deep enough for rowing.

In winter our chief amusement was skating. There were no rinks either open or closed, but when the ice was good on the river no more charming place could be found than on its glassy surface for the pursuit of our favorite pastime. In winter also we had sledding on some of the hills, and when the snow was soft we had snowballing. A standing feud existed between the town boys and us. They called us "Tassie Apes," and we retaliated by shouting "Balkie Apes," a Mr. Balkie being at that time Principal of the Central School. Many were the fights that occurred, when fists and sometimes even sticks and stones, were used.

Fights occurred among the schoolboys in those days as I suppose they do now. Every new boy had to have one or two of them before his position in the school was settled. After that it was only once in a long while that he had to assert his manhood, though, as it has been in the Balkans, war might break out at any time. Dr. Tassie did not countenance fighting, but I have an idea that he was secretly pleased when a boy whom he did not like received a thrashing from another boy. Perhaps he thought it might have a more salutary effect than if administered by himself. As a rule he kept out of the way when a fight was on. He appeared to act on the theory that little differences were best settled by the boys themselves in a fair standup fight without the interference of the teacher, the consequences of which interference are generally worse than if the fight has been allowed to go on. He trusted to the bystanders to see that there was no foul play and to the fighters themselves, for there had grown up among the boys a love of fair play. According to the rules of the game, after two boys had fought they shook hands and were friends again. Some years after I left school (I have the story from another "old boy") a fight took place in the gymnasium after the school was dismissed, and one of the two chief performers got the worst of it, as often happens. However, when the game was called off he went up to his antagonist to congratulate him and offered him his hand. The other fellow with a scowl turned on his heel and went out, upon which there arose such a storm of indignation among the boys at this boorish conduct that the offender had to leave school the next day and never returned.

Our outdoor games were cricket, football, and baseball; lacrosse

had not yet been heard of. Cricket was the only one of these that required much skill and the only one that Dr. Tassie regarded with any favor. He never took any part in our games; that would have been beneath his dignity, but when a cricket match was on, especially when our boys were opposed by a heavier team, he was often an interested, though always a silent, spectator of the game. He liked to see his boys undertaking hard things, and if they put up a good game when the odds were dead against them it pleased him very much. He did not show his pleasure openly. It was only by some little remark or question at the tea-table that we could tell that the playing of the boys had satisfied him. He admired pluck, endurance, and skill. He favored cricket because as we played it there was never any squabbling over the decisions of the umpires, because there was a generosity and love of fair play among the players, a good hit or a fine catch being cheered by both sides, and because the game was free from the rowdyism that had already crept into some other games. In short, he looked upon cricket as a gentlemanly game and it was his object to make us gentlemen.

Much to my own mortification and disgust though I often practised cricket I could never attain to any proficiency in it. I was always a very poor player. I cannot tell why this was so, for the steady application I gave to the game seemed to deserve success. I was never good at games of skill; some boys are like that.

Our playground was a large field just south of the ground now occupied by the C. P. R. station and tracks and east of North Water Street as it ascends the C. P. R. hill. It was leased by the Town Cricket Club, but we were allowed to make use of it for our games. Many famous games were played on this ground by the town team, which was then one of the best in Western Canada.

The Grammar School in 1859 was a long, rather narrow, one-storey stone building with no pretension to style or beauty of any kind. It was substantial, that was the most that anyone could say for it. It had not even a belfry or cupola to relieve the dull monotony of its outline or to show that it was not some small factory or storehouse. It stood on the site of the present Collegiate Institute. At the back of the school the ground sloped rapidly down to the Grand River and in front of it a wide expanse of stumpy field lay between it and the Preston road. To the south of the school grounds no C. P. R. bridge or unsightly embankment then cut off from the school the view of the pretty little town of Galt, lying almost a mile away in the valley below. The school contained two classrooms separated by a transverse hallway. The room in the south end was used by the mathematical master and across the hallway was the door of the north room in which Dr. Tassie taught. Entering by this door the visitor saw to his right a row of desks at which were seated the senior boys, and to his left along the full length of the west wall ran a bench occupied by the juniors. There still remained a large open space down the middle of the room. Here the floor was marked in chalk with squares and circles which might have suggested to the visitor geometrical problems awaiting solution, but which were merely intended to indicate the lines along which we were to place our toes when our classes stood up for the recitation of lessons. Maps hung on the west wall and at the north end of the room there was a large black board. On a raised platform at that end was a table and the chair of the head-master.

The classrooms were always crowded, and it required all Dr. Tassie's skill and the constant exercise of his authority to maintain order. To a man less expert than he in the management of boys the task would have been impossible.—Of Dr. Tassie's life before coming to Galt I know very little. He was born in 1815 at Dublin. His father, James Tassie, an engineer and contractor, was a descendant of a Scotch family, as was also his mother, Mary Stewart, who belonged to the Garth family. He spent his boyhood in his native city, and came in 1834 to Upper Canada. He taught school for some time in

Oakville and afterwards in Hamilton, where he lived fourteen years. He seems to have taken up the curriculum prescribed by the University of Toronto. In 1885 he graduated and a little later he received his M.A. degree.

In 1853 he assumed the mastership of the Galt Grammar School. The School had been founded in the previous year and had been taught for a few months by a Dr. Michael Howe. That but little progress was made in Howe's time may be conjectured from the fact that only a dozen names were on the roll when he resigned. Under the rule of the new master the school rapidly filled up and the room in the old Township Hall in which the pupils met became in a short time so crowded that the trustees had to set about building a schoolhouse on a piece of land obtained from the Dickson Estate. This school formed the south end of the building which I have already mentioned, the northern extension being added in the spring of 1859.

In the year 1859 Dr. Tassie had reached the age of forty-four. A man of medium height, rather stout, he bore himself with the easy grace of one who was conscious of his authority. He walked with head erect and with a firm and masterful tread. His cane held lightly by the middle was carried more as a symbol of power than as a possible means of support. His whole mien was dignified and gentlemanly. His head was large, features refined, the forehead wide and high, the face cleanshaven except for a tuft of whisker under each ear. His black hair brushed well back from his forehead was already tinged with grey about the temples. The nose was well shaped and had a slight roman curve. The lips were full and the chin well-rounded. His light grey eyes were large and prominent. His clear mellow voice had that ring about it which betokens decision of character. A slight clearing of the throat which had become habitual to him often opportunely betrayed his presence or gave us timely warning of his approach. When things were going well and he was in a good humor his face was pleasant and attractive, but when he was angry it grew dark as a sky overcast with thunder clouds and his eyes blazed as if the lightning was playing in their dark recesses. Though often angry he never lost command of himself. That would have been a sign of weakness and might have been a signal for rebellion. He was a man whom we all feared and, though in a spirit of bravado we might call him "Old Bill" behind his back, we felt that he was one with whom we could not trifle as we sometimes did with the other masters. We could not but respect a teacher who had no weak points and who never gave us a chance for ridicule. His bearing before his classes was always dignified. Long experience and keen discernment gave him an intimate knowledge of boy nature. He never made a mistake in reading character. His explosions of anger were always justified, though sometimes perhaps the fault was punished with undue severity. Some teachers are looked upon by their pupils as friends and confidants. We never regarded Dr. Tassie in that way. He never spoke of himself, never let us know what his thoughts were, but dwelt apart, inaccessible as some mountain peak. He was an autocrat in his little kingdom. His will was law and admitted no question. He was absolutely upright and sincere. I believe his whole heart was in his school and that it occupied his thoughts to the exclusion of everything else. He was industrious, energetic and conscientious in the performance of his duties. He rose at five in the morning and was at his desk till breakfast time. I have no idea how he spent his school vacations, but I know that during terms he gave himself no rest. His title in my opinion to the gratitude and esteem in which he has rightly been held by his old pupils rests not on his teaching, for his methods of teaching were in many respects faulty, but on the influence he exerted on the boys in the formation of their characters. Manliness, sincerity, truthfulness, perseverance, diligence, thoroughness, were qualities that he himself possessed, and these he succeeded in imprinting on the hearts and minds of scores and hundreds of boys who attribute whatever success they may have attained in after life to the training they received under Dr. Tassie.

Experiences of a Queen's Own Rifleman at Ridgeway

By Capt. Fred. H. McCallum, New Hamburg

The Battle of Ridgeway occurred on Saturday, June 2nd, 1866, and on June 2nd, 1916, the fiftieth anniversary will be observed by the gathering on the field of as many as possible of the veterans who participated in that affair. It is proposed to erect a suitable memorial to mark the place where the invaders were met and turned back by our forces. Already the spot has been selected by the '66 Veterans' Association and the foundation for an historical monument will soon be laid.

In the sixties of the last century besides the American Civil War, several other stirring events occurred which aroused the military spirit of the people. The Queen's Own Rifle corps was organized in April, 1860; previous to this there were several independent rifle companies in different parts of the country. There was the visit of H. R. H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, to Canada in September, 1860, the Trent affair, and the arrival here of several of the best Imperial regiments of regulars, most of whom had served in the Crimea and in the Indian Mutiny. The St. Alban's raiders were likely to cause trouble. Then came the Fenian troubles. Ireland was unhappy; sympathizers in the United States were numerous. There was a split in the Fenian brotherhood, and the American faction thought that the rescue of Ireland was impracticable, and at a great Convention held in Cincinnati in September, 1865, attended by Fenian delegates from almost every city in the U. S. A., it was decided to capture Canada. General T. W. Sweeny, commanding-officer 16th United States Infantry, was chosen to command, with a full staff of officers, known as the Fenian war department. "On to Canada" became their slogan. They had a million dollars subscription and 80,000 men. They drilled and chanted:

We are a Fenian Brotherhood
Skilled in the arts of war,
And we're going to fight for Ireland,
The land that we adore.
Many battles we have won
Along with the boys in blue,
And we'll go and capture Canada
Because we've nothing else to do.

Meanwhile the Canadian Government thought it prudent to place several companies of volunteers at exposed points along the border, including Niagara, Sarnia, Windsor, Sandwich and Prescott. Early in March, 1866, considerable activity was observable among the Fenians, both in the United States and in Ireland, and a general rising on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, 1866, was contemplated. Accordingly 10,000 volunteers were ordered out for active service. The 17th of March passed without the anticipated attacks being made, and on the 31st of March all were relieved from duty with the exception of the outposts upon the frontier. However, all were requested to drill two days a week at local headquarters. Meanwhile the Fenians kept up their drill and warlike preparations. For some days previous to May 31st, 1866, mysterious strangers were noticed to be gathering in towns in the United States adjacent to the Niagara frontier. These strangers were all Fenians who were determined to make a sudden dash upon Canada, which they hoped to capture. As dawn was breaking on June 1st, 1866, the Fenian transports started to cross the Niagara River. The troops consisted of one brigade of the Irish Republican Army, under command of General John O'Neil, a veteran soldier who had seen much service and hard fighting in the four years' American Civil War. Late

on the evening previous, orders came from Ottawa to General Napier of Toronto to despatch troops to the Niagara frontier. About nine P. M. a sergeant of the company to which I belonged tapped my shoulder while I was attending a soldier's bazaar in the building on the corner of King and Simcoe streets, which had formerly been used as the Governor's residence. I remember that I was intently gazing at a quilt hung up, beautifully designed with patches of all the different colored soldiers' uniforms, the pattern being of a military nature. The sergeant informed me that the Queen' Own was ordered to the Niagara frontier and gave me a list of the names of members whom I was to notify at once that the regiment would assemble at 5 o'clock next the morning at the drill shed on Simcoe Street, to leave afterwards for the front. The thought never struck me that I was much too young to embark upon so serious a trip. I was anxious to accompany the regiment. What troubled me most was whether my folks would object to my going. It took some hours to inform the members of the company, whose places of residence I well knew. Then I went home to bed, saying nothing to my people, who had retired. My uniform was at home, and at an early hour I quietly left the house so as to be sharp on time at the assembling of the regiment. One great mistake I never forgot; I did not provide myself with any breakfast, and did not complain to anyone that I had no food; the consequence was that I went across the lake to Port Dalhousie, a three hours' run, and from there by train to Port Colborne, without food. In a fast growing youth you may imagine the pangs of hunger.

That experience was a lesson to me, and I made good use of it later in warning recruits under my command to take in their haversacks on going to camp a supply of food sufficient for the first day at least. We were served out as full an equipment as possible, including old-fashioned knapsack, old-style Enfield muzzle-loader rifle, 60 rounds ball-cartridge, haversack and water-bottle. After an hour's manoeuvring the regiment formed up and swung out of the drill shed, headed by the band playing:

Tramp, tramp, tramp, our boys are marching,
Cheer up, let the Fenians come,
For beneath the Union Jack, we will drive the Fenians back,
And we'll fight for our beloved Canadian home.

The steamer City of Toronto had steam up and we soon were on our way across Lake Ontario, headed for Port Dalhousie. While on the boat several cases of Spencer carbine rifles were noticed. These cases were opened and served out to No. 5 Company, to which I belonged; also four packages of cartridges containing 7 rounds, or 28 rounds for each man. We were not used to these rifles, or carbines. They were shorter than the Enfield and were a repeating rifle. On our arrival at Port Dalhousie we entrained for Port Colborne, where we arrived about two P.M. While passing St. Catharines we learned for the first time that about 2,000 Fenians had actually invaded Canada at Fort Erie that morning, and that their objective was the same place we were speeding for, viz., Port Colborne. Their object was to either destroy valuable canal locks located there or to hold up the shipping that arrives there for passage through the canal. To the credit of the authorities the Militia were upon the ground before the enemy. Had there been only a few hours' delay, serious damage would undoubtedly have been done by the marauders from the United States. An early collision between our troops and the invaders, half way between Port Colborne and Fort Erie, checked further ingress of the raiders and thereby saved the country an inestimable amount of money by preventing the losses that would have followed had we allowed them to take possession of Port Colborne, and the Welland Canal.

We were received with cheers by the inhabitants who were greatly

excited and who had armed themselves with shotguns, and every available weapon that they could scrape up, as they expected the Fenians would attack the village that day. After marching to the Custom House Square a large Union Jack was hoisted on a tall flag pole in front of the Custom House. Billeting the regiment among the residents was necessary, as there were no tents or commissariat arrangements provided for by the military authorities.

I was billeted with a party of 15 comrades at a small frame hotel along the side of the canal. The portly landlord was sporting a red coat. After some delay a simple meal was provided. The butchers and bakers of the village had, in their excitement, stopped work on hearing that the Fenians were approaching. While having my meal a sergeant ordered me to fall in on picket parade with rifle and overcoat. Outposts had been posted a mile or so in different directions, as on the alertness of the outposts depends the repose of the camp or garrison. It was our duty to patrol from one outpost to another, during the whole night. About 2 A.M. Capt. Akers arrived from Chippewa with orders for our senior officer, Col. Booker, of Hamilton, to leave at daylight for Ridgeway, disentrain there, march north to Stevensville, and await Col. Peacock's arrival with troops from Chippewa. The plan was to form a juncture and then march to Fort Erie. Col. Peacock of H. M. 16th Regiment commanded the troops in the Niagara District. While a superior officer's orders are imperative, it seems that an attempt was made to ignore them, in this case. Although Col. Booker was senior officer at Port Colborne he was influenced by other officers. The result of a consultation between these officers was that the Queen's Own and the 13th, with two other Rifle Companies from Caledonia and York in Haldimand County, instead of disentraining at Ridgeway, decided to run through to Fort Erie. With this object in view the tug Robb was sent around to Fort Erie with two small companies totalling 70 men. Col. Dennis and Capt. Akers accompanied them. After the tug was well out of sight, Col. Booker thought it wise to inform Col. Peacock of the proposed change; that officer immediately wired back imperative orders that the original plan must be adhered to, and Col. Booker did so. The result was disastrous to the volunteers on the tug, as they were landed at Fort Erie, to patrol the place, while the tug patrolled the river. The volunteers did some good work in capturing about 60 Fenian stragglers, who were put on board the tug at intervals. But when several hundred Fenians later in the day appeared and attacked the Welland Field Battery and the Dunnville Naval Brigade, composing the volunteers landed from the tug, these were surrounded and captured after a severe fight. Toward the end the Canadians retired to a frame house which was riddled by Fenian bullets, the marks of which may be seen to this day. Of course Col. Dennis was at a loss to understand the non-arrival of Col. Booker as promised. This was only cleared up after the fortunes of the day had been decided.

After disentraining at Ridgeway the Queen's Own formed up, the 13th Regiment and the Caledonia and York Companies following. No. 5 Company Queen's Own was ordered out as the advance guard. I was in a leading section of this company and was in the very front of the whole affair. We totalled about 800 men, many of us mere youths. I was the youngest on the field carrying a rifle, being still under sixteen years of age; but I stood the hardships well.

The advance guard was armed with Spencer rifles. A tube ran through the butt which held seven cartridges. They were repeating rifles, and much shorter than the old muzzle-loaders with which the rest were armed. We were served out with only 28 rounds of Spencer ammunition which did not last long, and there was no extra supply at hand. The leading section of the advance guard was about 1,000 yards ahead of the main body, which had also a rear guard, following at about the same distance. It was a beautiful June morning, the sun shining brightly, promising to be an excessively hot day. About 7 o'clock the bugle sounded the advance, under the command

of Col. Booker. Major Gilmour was senior officer in the Queen's Own present; Lieut. Otter was adjutant, Lieut.-Gov. Gibson was an officer in the 13th Regiment, and many other prominent Canadians were with either one or the other regiments present on that day. When about two miles north of Ridgeway station we came in touch with the enemy. Two elderly men on horseback approached the leading section of the advance guard, saying that they were Canadian Government secret service men, and informed us that there was a body of about 800 Fenians at the turn of the road about a mile north. They were told to report to Col. Booker, and went back for that purpose as we supposed; but as they soon reappeared and galloped past us toward the enemy, some of us thought that they might have been Fenian spies. We continued to advance until we observed the opposing forces to the right where the road turns toward Fort Erie. The advance guard, according to instructions, halted and signalled back that the Fenians were in sight. We could see some men on horseback, and bayonets and rifle barrels glistening in the sun. Our company was then drawn together and extended from the centre as skirmishers, while three other companies were extended to the right and left of us. Supports were formed by four other companies, thus 8 companies of the Queen's Own were in the field at the opening attack, the remainder of the column formed the main body and rear guard, some distance to the rear. It is said that Col. Peacock sent a second message advising Col. Booker that he was delayed in leaving Chippewa, and that in the event of meeting the enemy, he was to act upon the defensive, in order to give him time to arrive. Neither of the combatants had artillery. General Napier, Commander of the Canadian Militia, would not allow a battery to accompany us. If he had, short work would have been made of the invaders. His reasons may have been to save the guns until more troops could be got to the front or until the campaign more fully developed. We advanced through the fields as skirmishers at this time. We could see the Fenians advancing toward us also as skirmishers, not a shot had yet been fired by either side. Suddenly while we were on rather high ground, in the middle of a wheat field, the Fenians opened fire on us. With this baptism we doubled up to the cover of a snake fence, and there we opened fire. Our officer told us to sight our rifles at 600 yards. Here the first casualty occurred, Ensign McEachren, a very fine man, was mortally wounded; he belonged to our company, and was with the advance guard. The Fenians kept up a hot fire, and from the noise made by the bullets continually whistling, I often wonder how I escaped injury. As it was the percentage of the killed on both sides was only about one per cent. of those under fire, and of wounded about 5 per cent. The Fenians were commanded by General John O'Neil, who had seen four years' service in the United States Civil War. His men were seasoned soldiers, veterans of the same war. They knew all the tricks while we were novices.

The first firing line advanced and the Fenians fell back upon barricades of double fences that they built up, and acted on the defensive. Our Spencer ammunition becoming exhausted, it was reported to Major Gilmour, who ordered the supports to reinforce us. The supports were not long in doubling into the firing line, and new supports were sent out to fill their places. It was now 9 A.M., and still no signs of Col. Peacock at the rear of the enemy, with cavalry if not infantry; but they were still unable to leave Chippewa because they had to wait until their fast was satisfied, while we left Port Colborne without any sign of a breakfast. The skirmishers who were first out now retired to the main body, and as there were no stretchers or bearers we carried in our wounded as best we could and always under a continual fire and whistling of bullets. I carried some of Ensign McEachren's accoutrements and followed the men who carried him until they laid him at the feet of the surgeons, in rear of the main body. While depositing his sword and belt I saw the surgeons examine the wound, a large one in the abdomen. I also heard him speak his

last words, while dying. He lived about 20 minutes longer. His last words impressed themselves upon my youthful brain. They were: "Oh, Jesus, I had often dreamt of dying thus....." The surgeons were Drs. Thorburn and May. Standing alongside were the Rev. Dr. Inglis, and Captain Edwards, a brave man, with tears running down his cheeks. (I have a photograph of our company showing Capt. Edwards and 51 men and officers taken just after the engagement. I can name them all, but nearly all have gone to their long homes.) The battle still raged on. Now the 13th who wore red tunics were in the firing line. The Queen's Own Rifles wore dark green tunics. The Fenians evidently thought that the red coats were British regulars, and here, just as they were on the point of giving way, some of their leaders assembled all the horses they had and appeared to be prepared to make a charge down the Ridge road. Two of our companies, Nos. 9 and 10, the University and the Highland companies, were doing good work on the flanks of the red coats. At this time an unfortunate mistake occurred. A bugler announced that the enemy had cavalry, and he was ordered to sound the call "prepare for cavalry." Col. Booker ordered it. Major Gilmour ordered us to form square. If this error had been rectified in time it would have made a great difference in the fortunes of the day as far as we were concerned. It was lucky for the Fenians that it occurred. The bugler kept on sounding and the red coats in the firing line asked each other what it meant. They waited, and another error was made when the order to reform column, unfixed bayonets, was given. If the next command had been given us to advance in face of the enemy, confidence would have been maintained; but after hesitating, the order, "the column will retire," was given, then, "right about, turn," and the bugler sounded the retire over and over again. This confused those in the field who came in on the run, passing the main body in the narrow space between them and the fence on either side, while the main body was being retired a short distance to get further out of the range of fire. The Fenians saw their opportunity and did not allow us to get out of the range. It was now thought best to send out skirmishers again, and companies were formed up lengthwise on the road, red and black coats mixed, for all was confusion. In obeying the call of the bugle to retire, the University company lost Mewburn, Tempest and McKenzie, three of its most brilliant students. They were obliged to double across a clearing under heavy fire.

After standing for some time formed up on the road waiting for orders to extend as skirmishers again, the question of sufficient ammunition was again mentioned, and it was finally thought prudent to retire on Ridgeway station. While doing so, individual firing by cool old soldiers was kept up, and the enemy evidently secured the information, from some of our men that were left behind wounded, and some who stayed with the wounded, that we expected Col. Peacock to arrive from Chippewa. General O'Neil wisely withdrew to Fort Erie, the same day, taking several prisoners and his wounded with him. He released all our men that night and bade them farewell.

While he was crossing the river his barges were seized by the U. S. Gun-boat Michigan. They were released the next day after communicating with Washington.

The Queen's Own marched to Fort Erie the next morning, Sunday, June 3rd. After camping there a couple of days we entrained for Stratford, where we remained about three weeks, arriving back in Toronto toward the end of June.

The Fenian commander gave the Canadian militia credit for advancing and deploying, and meeting a stubborn fire, as cool as experienced regulars. Many instances of bravery and willingness of the men to fight to the last ditch are recorded. Before they returned to their homes, Major-General Napier, who commanded the troops in Canada, issued an order returning thanks to the volunteers in appreciation of their services, and asked them to hold themselves in readiness by maintaining their efficiency in drill whenever they had an opportunity

to attend for that purpose. The spirit of military enthusiasm was never greater in the Canadian Militia than it was in those days.

The Fenians crossed back to the United States and were given railway passes to the different cities there, as many as between six and seven hundred being forwarded to Chicago alone, to Cincinnati some three hundred, and so on. Had the initial raid not met with such vigorous opposition, and had the Fenians been allowed a few days to recruit after touching Canadian soil, a much more formidable affair would no doubt have developed. The Fenian recruits were veterans, experienced in the American Civil War, just mustered out of service on the completion of that long struggle and enlisted in the new cause before they had had time to settle down to any other occupation.

The '66 Veterans have not yet been included in the same category as to Dominion land grants as the North-West and South African Veterans. All that has been done is the recent grant of \$100 to each veteran of the Fenian invasion, whether he was under fire at the front or not. I did not receive any pay for the time I was out in 1866. The Government may have sent it to the regiment, and it may have been absorbed in the regimental fund. I did not get it.

It may be added that the Fenians themselves were misled by their leaders, who offered them farms fully stocked, in Canada, if they would enroll in the Fenian army. This might well have been the case had they been successful.

Sympathizers with the Fenians were not confined to the United States. There were many known sympathizers even in Canada, ready to rise and help the enemy, awaiting only the success of the invasion.

Mr. John Sherk and Mrs. Seitz, recent visitors to New Hamburg, told me that they lived near Ridgeway at the time of the raid. The former's father was taken prisoner by the Fenians and his team and democrat wagon confiscated. His father and three other farmers were driving toward Fort Erie, when they saw a man with a rifle and bayonet, on the road in front. This man was a Fenian sentry, posted by their picket. Mr. Sherk and party promptly halted, and their first thought was to turn around; but when they saw the second sentry posted on the road in the rear, they gave themselves up as prisoners. They were liberated after the militia succeeded in checking the invasion and driving the enemy out of the country.

Mrs. Seitz said that their farm was only two miles away from the battlefield and that they were aroused by the rifle firing. They were greatly excited; the men drove their stock to the bush and the women and children carried armfuls of household goods to other places with a view of hiding them from the Fenians. One party emptied their house. They admitted that it was useless because if the Fenians had come, as expected, they would have had to run, and leave the goods. Their grief was turned to cheerfulness when they heard that the Fenians had retreated to Fort Erie an hour or two later, and they had to laugh next day when they were busy carrying their things back to their houses again.

Both Mr. Sherk and Mrs. Seitz gave the militia all the credit for checking the invasion. The Fenians took possession of all the farm houses and barns along with any valuables, also horses and stock. The farmers deserted their places on the approach of the invading hordes.

Captain McCallum joined the Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto, in October, 1864. He served in that Regiment until 1870. Moving to New Hamburg, Ont., he was transferred to the 29th Waterloo Battalion. He attended the Military School, Toronto, for thirteen weeks, obtaining a second class certificate of qualification; later on he attended the Royal School of Infantry to qualify as a field officer, but business requiring his attention at New Hamburg he did not finish his course, and was refused that privilege on application some time later, the reason given being that he had reached the age limit for Captains, and was not qualified for promotion. He was retired in January, 1907. Accord-

ing to the regulations in force when he was gazetted in command of his company, officers serving ten consecutive years with qualifications were allowed to be retired with a step in rank and placed upon the retired list of militia officers. This was not done in his case.

His family military record shows that his grandfather was a militiaman in Canada in 1812. His father served in the rebellion of 1837, taking part in the cutting out of the Steamer Caroline, boarding her and applying a torch before she went over Niagara Falls. Capt. McCallum wears a general service medal with 1866 bar, and a Colonial Auxiliary Force Decoration medal for 20 years' service with the Canada Militia as a qualified officer. In 1890 on returning from camp of instruction he was presented with an address accompanied with an ebony walking stick, silver-headed, with inscription. His nephew, Lieut. Gerald Hamilton, has joined overseas forces and leaves with the Third Divisional Signal Company for England.



Donations Received in 1915

- News-Record, 1914; donated by Berlin Public Library.
Berlin Daily Telegraph, 1914; donated by Berlin Public Library.
Berlin Journal, 1914; donated by W. J. Motz.
Old Newspapers of Waterloo County; donated by W. J. Motz. This collection comprises numbers of the Berlin Express, Daily News, first issues, Morgenstern, Wochenblatt, etc.
Single numbers of the Evening Times, Daily Times, Canadische Kolonist, Deutsche Canadier, Deutsche Reformer, Illinois Staats-Zeitung, reprint of an issue of 1871, New York Evening Post, first issue of Nov. 16th, 1801; donated by W. J. Motz.
Wellesley Maple Leaf, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1908; donated by H. W. Kaufman.
Canadisches Volksblatt, 1865; donated by Daniel Ritz.
Deutsche Zeitung, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898; donated by W. V. Uttley.
Ontario Glocke, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898; donated by Estate of John Rittinger.
Canadian Farmer, 1864, Toronto; donated by Isaac Hilborn.
Phrenological Journal, 1861, 1862, containing numerous contemporary biographies; donated by Isaac Hilborn.
Historical Reminiscences of Galt; donated by Hugh Cant.
Canadian Freeman, April 17th, 1828, York, U. C.; donated by Rev. A. B. Sherk.
Canada Museum, June 27th, 1840, Berlin; donated by Rev. A. B. Sherk.
Collection of papers, etc., 1845; donated by Capt. F. H. McCallum.
Posters of 1865, Queen's Birthday, etc.; donated by W. J. Motz.
Historical papers, etc.; donated by John L. Wideman.
Waterloo County newspapers, etc.; donated by Dr. Otto Klotz.
The Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London, England, medal, 1886; donated by Berlin Public Library.
The Tercentenary Medal of the Founding of Quebec, 1908; donated by Berlin Public Library.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

- This interesting collection is steadily growing, and includes photographs of prominent men of Waterloo County, and photographs connected with the military activities of Waterloo County.
Waterloo County Council of 1889; donated by Alex. Millar.
Volunteer Company, New Hamburg, 1886; donated by John Cook.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- Wall Map, Galiné's Map, Lake Ontario, etc., 1670; donated by the Ontario Historical Society.
Second Wheel of light wagon used by Samuel Bricker and Daniel Erb in 1804 (see 1913 list); donated by John Cook.
Shell manufactured by the Canadian Buffalo Forge Co., Berlin; donated by A. G. McAvity.
Shell manufactured by the Goldie-McCulloch Co., Galt; donated by A. R. Goldie.
Native bag and girdle from Santo, New Hebrides; donated by James E. Kerr.

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