

## The Heroes of Batoche



Left to Right: Standing 1-21; Sitting 22-34

137 years ago today (April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1885) Belleville and vicinity was in the throes of excitement and had been during the four preceding days. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1885 Lt-Col S. S. Lazier, commanding the old XV Battalion Argyll Light Infantry had received notice of the formation of the Midland Battalion under command of Col. Williams of Port Hope, to take part in the suppression of Indians and others in the North West Territories who had risen in rebellion under the leadership of Louis Riel.

In three days a company of three officers and 44 other ranks was formed here and left the city from "Ontario" Hall, Bridge Street, on April 1<sup>st</sup> to proceed to Kingston where it joined with the other companies from throughout the district, to form the Midland Battalion. Belleville's quota formed "A" and "H" Company of the unit and so remained during the ensuing campaign.

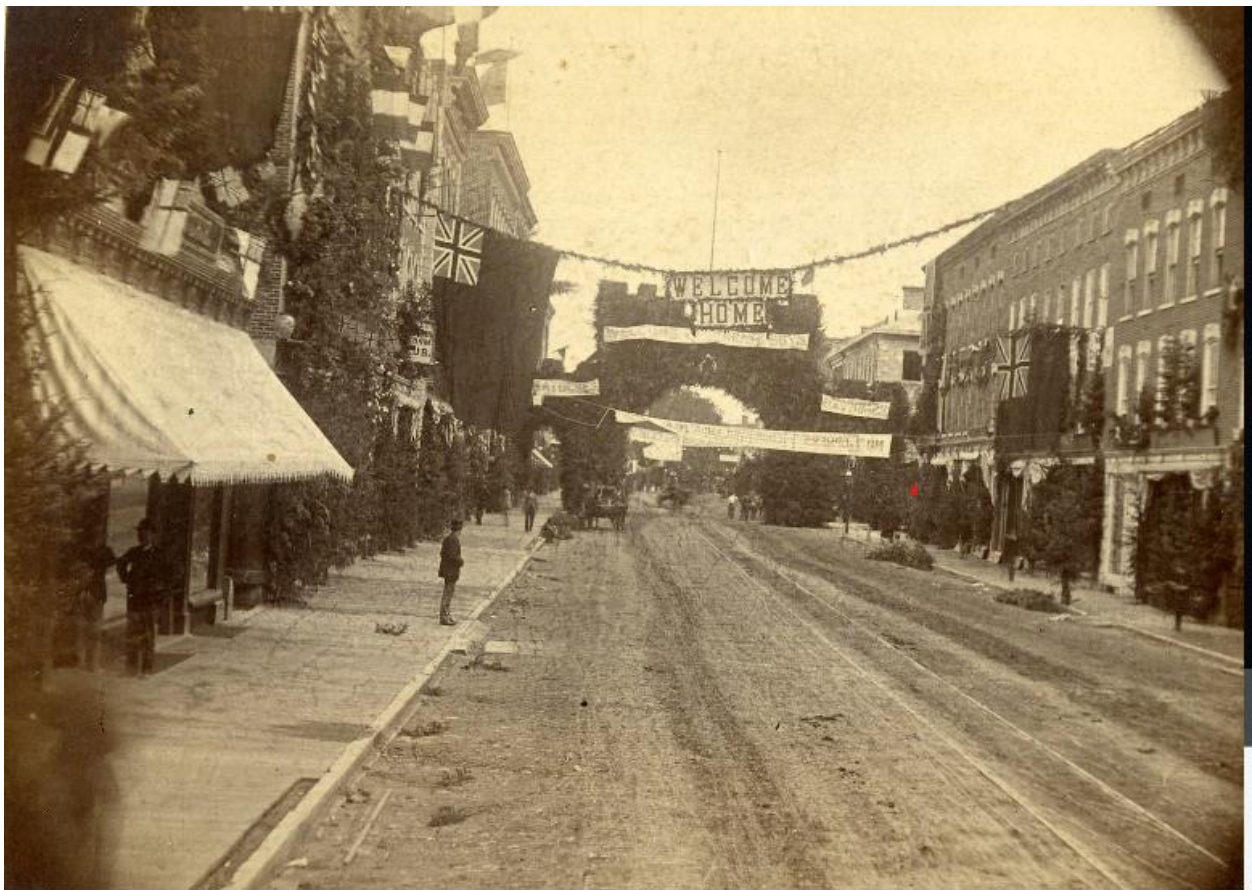
On April 7<sup>th</sup> the battalion entrained on the Kingston and Pembroke Railroad where it transferred to the C.P.R. to be transported to the end of that railroad's "steel" in the vicinity of Jack Fish Bay on the north shore of Lake Superior. A rest in lumber camps was made there and then the unit marched 37 miles over snow and ice when another rest period was taken. A second march of 40 miles brought the battalion to

the C.P.R. line running east from Winnipeg. Thence the trip was made by rail to Swift Current and another march from that point to Swift Current Landing.

At Swift Current Landing the Midland Battalion was broken up; the Belleville "A" Company and Peterborough Company proceeded by boat (the Steamer Northcote) to Fish Creek and from there marched to Batoche. They reached Batoche on the morning of May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1885 and united with the troops then in arduous battle against the Indians, half-breeds and rebels under command of Riel. The action terminated on May 12<sup>th</sup> with the capture of Louis Riel, other leaders and many prisoners; in the engagement six of the Belleville Company were wounded.

Following the surrender of Riel, the Belleville contingent marched across country to Prince Albert and there took boat for Fort Pitt which had been made a base for troops operating against the Indians led by Chiefs "Big Bear" and "Wandering Spirit". The Belleville Company was engaged in various skirmishes from this base in relief duties till the following July.

At the close of the campaign the reunited unit came eastward to Port Hope in time to bury, with full military honors, its late commanding officer, Col. Williams who had died at Fort Pitt.



The Battalion was demobilized at Port Hope and the soldiers returned to Belleville July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1885. To welcome her warrior sons home, Belleville was decorated as never before.

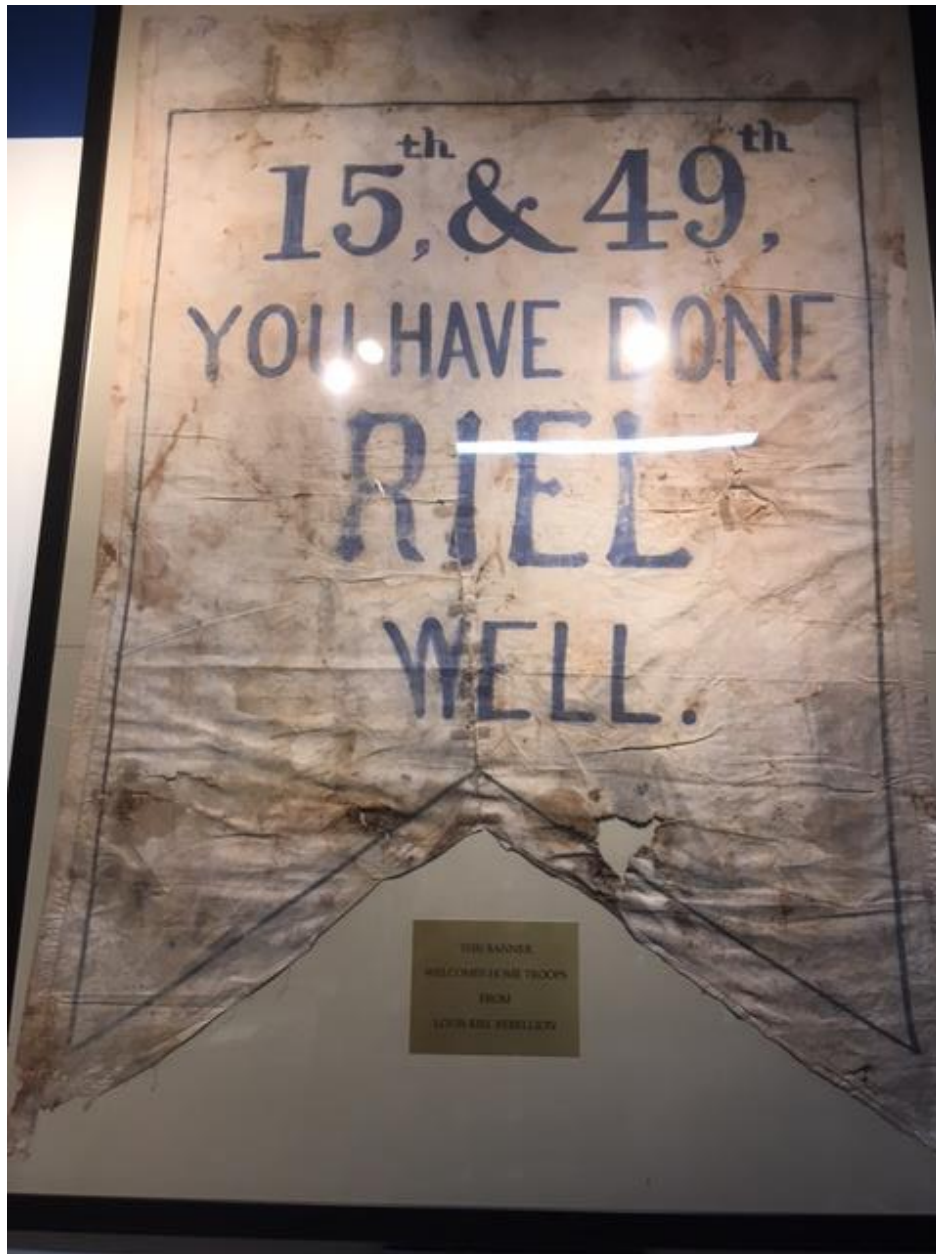


The Bell, stolen twice.



During the Rebellion in 1885, the Midland Battalion raided the settlement about Frog Lake and among other trophies brought home with them the bell of the Catholic Church; it was a symbolic trophy of war. The 20 pound bell, purchased the year before the battle at Batoche, had been baptized by the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Albert; it was given the name “Marie-Antoinette”. The bell was in position at the Orange Hall in Millbrook, Peterborough County, Ontario and in 1930 it was installed in the fire hall there; the fire hall burned down but the bell, with a new crack, survived. By 1991 it was on display in the Millbrook branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. The Metis of Canada requested several times that the symbolic bell be returned to them. In 1991 the leader of the Manitoba Metis with some members of the Federation travelled to Millbrook to examine the bell; a week later it disappeared from the Royal Canadian Legion. The Bell of Frog Lake is now on display at Le Musee de Saint-Boniface Museum.

Louis Riel was a Metis leader and founder of the Province of Manitoba which entered into Confederation on May 12, 1870. On March 19, 1885, the feast day of St. Joseph, the patron Saint of the Metis, Riel formed a Provisional Government at Batoche, Saskatchewan; Gabriel Dumont was named Adjutant-General and head of the army. Riel drew up a Bill of Rights for all residents of the West, addressing issues of land, timber rights, responsible government, land speculators, school and hospitals. Metis and Cree led by Dumont defeated the North West Mounted Police and civilian volunteers in a bloody skirmish near Duck Lake. The Canadian Government sent forces to put down the Rebellion; they overwhelmed the defenders of Batoche and captured Riel. He was executed for treason Nov 16, 1885.



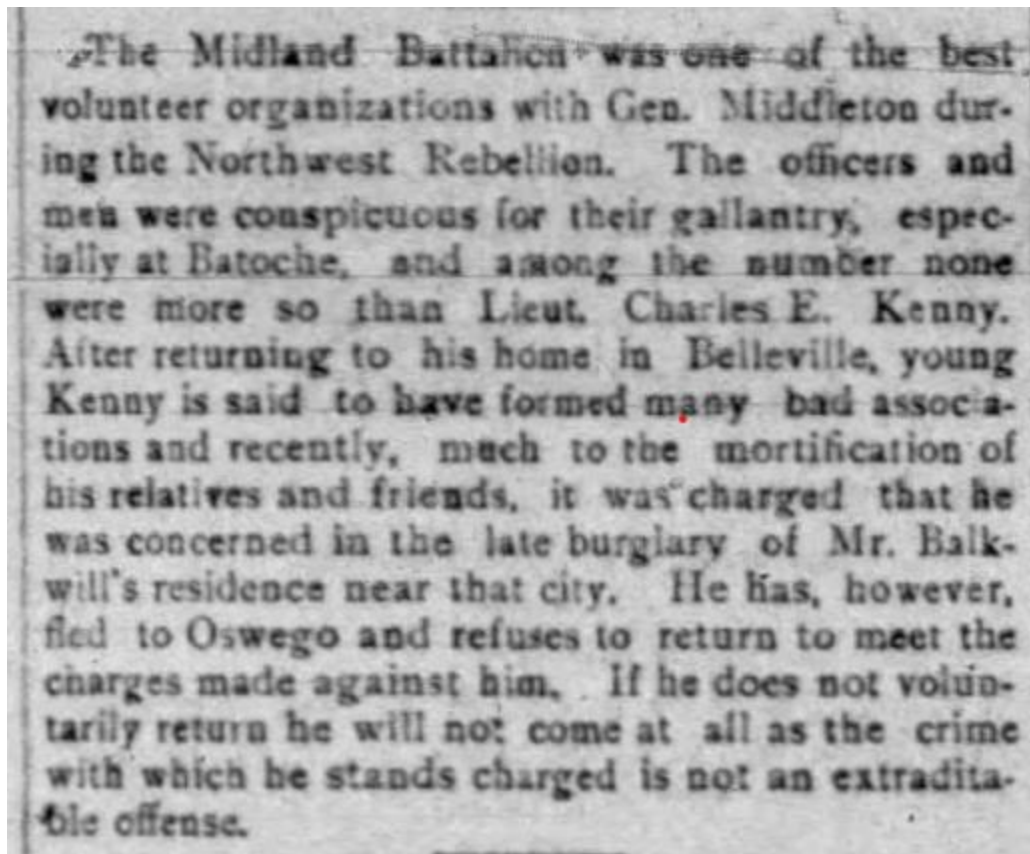
The Midland Battalion had covered over four thousand miles since the last week in March, 1885; the war-torn soldiers had changed since they left Kingston. Bright scarlet uniforms had turned dull and dirty. The caps worn were made of oat bags and many had breeches of duck. They were bronze in face, gaunt in appearance and anxious to reach home. The Battalion had the satisfaction of not losing a man except their commander; the wounded were recovering. Throughout the whole Midland District grand preparations were made to receive the valiant volunteers.

The following is an account of the men of Company "A"; some suppositions have been made and errors are probable. This should be considered a 'work in progress'.

**Thomas Cameron Lazier** was born at Milltown, Tyendinaga Township on Aug 29, 1862 son of Stephen Allen Lazier and Mary Jane Leach; located on the Salmon River, his father operated flouring and saw mills and conducted a large carriage factory. Thomas completed his education at Dr. Tassie's School at Galt with a course at the Ontario Business College. He joined the militia in 1880, was Captain T.C. Lazier when he completed his course of military instruction at R.M.C. on Sept. 2, 1883 and was promoted to the rank of Major by 1885. He was in command of "A" Company, 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Argyll Light Infantry in the North West Riel uprising and was slightly wounded during an engagement. Afterwards, Mr. Lazier was one of the promoters and managers of the Belleville Electric Street Railway. He was thrice married, first to Matilda Starling on Sept. 21, 1887 at Belleville, second to Amelia Barlow a school teacher on June 23, 1920 at Rochester and third to Roberta Thudichum, a writer on Nov 14, 1934 at Vancouver. Lt -Col Thomas Cameron Lazier died in Monterey, California on Feb 13, 1935 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery Section L Row 2 Plot 7. He is # 20 in the Picture.

**John Earl Halliwell** was born at Blackburn, Lancashire, England on July 18, 1854 son of Reverend John Halliwell and Nancy Earl. He removed to Quebec with his family in 1857 and to Stirling, Ontario in 1871 where his father, an ordained Deacon of the Anglican Church was posted. Halliwell matriculated the local high school, attended Trinity College in Toronto and graduated with the degree of B.A. in 1879 and M.A. in 1903. He taught for two years in the Orillia High School and then went to Belleville and commenced the study of law in the office of G.D. Dickson, K.C. He took an early interest in military matters, completed his Certificate of Military Instruction in Toronto on Dec. 24, 1884 and served as Lieutenant with "A" Company at the charge of Batoche where he was seriously wounded. After recovering from his wounds, he completed his study of law and opened a law practice in Belleville removing to Stirling in 1893. Halliwell was united in marriage to Letitia Boldrick on Oct 10, 1900 at Stirling. Lt-Col John Earl Halliwell died at Stirling on Sept. 10, 1907 and is interred at the Stirling Cemetery Section B. He is # 21 in the Picture.

**Edward Charles Kenny** was born at Belleville, baptised on Oct 26, 1860 at two weeks of age, son of Dennis Kenny and Mary Burns (Bourne), immigrants from Ireland. He was a Lieutenant in the 15<sup>th</sup> Argyll Light Infantry at Belleville before the Riel affair and in 1887 was promoted to Captain. Shortly thereafter he removed to Oswego, N.Y. but returned on occasion to the place of his nativity. In the fall of 1888 he was implicated in the burglary of the home of the proprietor of the Dafoe House Hotel in which \$1500 worth of liquor was stolen. Catching wind of the movement of the police in his direction, he got a sympathizer to drive him to Deseronto where he took the steam barge *Reliance* which was loaded with lumber and enroute for Oswego; the police were equal to him and he was arrested when the boat reached its destination. Kenny was confined in the Oswego County Jail awaiting the arrival of Canadian officials; he claimed to be not guilty and refused to return to Canada. In court in Belleville, the evidence failed to establish a *prima facie* case against Charles Kenny and he was ordered released. Lieutenant Charles Edward Kenny is not in the Picture.



**William Thomas Wrighton** was born in Dec. 1846 at Bethnel Green, (now East London) Middlesex, England and served with the English Army in India with the Royal Scots; he was discharged on May 22, 1883. He removed to Belleville, was engaged as a police constable and was in active duty during the Riel Rebellion as Color-Sergeant in the Midland Battalion. This officer is in charge of distributing kit and equipment and making sure the company's living quarters are fine. During battle operations, he makes sure the company has enough food, water and ammunition. C/Sgt was wounded in action on May 12, 1885. On return to Belleville after the Rebellion, he served as care-taker of the Young Men's Conservative Club room. Wrighton was described as being quite methodical and unassuming in his ways but every inch a soldier. Color-Sergeant William Thomas Wrighton died at his home on Coleman Street on Jan. 23, 1886; there is no record of his burial at the Belleville Cemetery. He is # 1 in the Picture.

**Joseph Patrick Maiden** was born at Ballincollig, County Cork, Ireland on July 19, 1847 son of Joseph Maiden and Mary Ann Smith. He was established in Belleville at an early age and imbued with the military spirit. He saw service in the Fenian Raid of 1866 and was at Garrison at Gibraltar and Malta for 11 years. Maiden was married at Porto Salvo Church, Valletta, Malta on Jan 28, 1872 to Carmela Fsadni. He was a veteran of the Zulu War of 1877 and in 1885 went to the North West Rebellion as Sergeant of "A" Company during which he was wounded during the charge at Batoche. In later years, at the age of

64, this wound necessitated the below knee amputation of his leg. Sergeant Joseph Patrick Maiden died at Toronto of carcinoma of the tongue on Oct 2, 1915. He is interred at St. James Cemetery, Belleville in Section D Row 6 Plot 15. He is # 2 in the Picture.

**Alexander Davidson Robertson** was born at St. Nicholas, Aberdeen, Scotland on Aug. 25, 1864 son of John Robertson and Elspeth Davidson; he immigrated to Belleville with his parents aboard the vessel the *Transatlantic* on Apr. 11, 1867. He served as Sergeant during the 1885 Rebellion and returned with the Midland Battalion to Belleville where he remained for about a decade; he retired from the Military with the rank of Captain. Robertson removed to Findlay, Ohio where he was engaged as a dry goods merchant and was united in marriage on Jan. 22, 1896 at Findlay to Maude Mae Post. Sergeant Alexander Davidson Robertson died in Cincinnati, Ohio at the home of his son, Dr. Charles David Robertson, osteopath, on June 9, 1946 and is interred at the Maple Grove Cemetery, Findlay in Section D Row 66 Plot 4. He is not in the Picture.

**Joseph William Belcher** was born in Maidstone, Kent, England on June 3, 1863 and immigrated to Canada arriving on June 6, 1870 with his siblings, his father Joseph and his wife Sarah; the family soon established themselves at Belleville. He served as Corporal during the North West Rebellion, returned home with "A" Company, was employed as a machinist and was soon married to Agnes (died April 22, 1892). This family unit removed to Watertown, N.Y. and now a widower, he married Anna St. Louis, nee Backus. Initially engaged as a black smith he later farmed. Corporal Joseph William Belcher removed to Henderson, N.Y. about 1921 and died of Bright's disease on July 29, 1924; he is interred at the North Watertown Cemetery. He is # 18 in the Picture.

**Henry James** was born in Belleville in Dec. 1863 son of Dr. Henry James and Florella Smith who married in Belleville on Mar. 11, 1863; Dr. James was an immigrant from England, a graduate of the Medical University of Buffalo and the Eclectic Medical College of Pennsylvania. Young Henry served as a Corporal during the Riel Rebellion, returned with the Midland Battalion and soon immigrated to the United States. He was united in marriage on May 31, 1890 to Susan Rutter in Washington, D.C. and settled in Yonkers, N.Y. where he was employed as an automobile salesman and later a journalist. Corporal Henry James died at Yonkers about 1945 and prior to his divorce was planning to be interred at Mount Hope Cemetery, Hastings on Hudson, Westchester County, N.Y. Section 24. He is not in the Picture.

**Edwin Armitage Earl Halliwell** was born in Quebec on Nov 26, 1859 son of Rev. John Halliwell and Nancy Earl. He removed with his family to Ontario and was a druggist in Hillier Township, P.E. County at the time of the Rebellion. He served at Batoche as Corporal Halliwell and was wounded on May 12, 1885 while carrying his brother from the field of battle; it was reported that he had 17 bullet marks on his

clothes and skin. He attained his Certificate of Military Instruction in Quebec on Jan. 25, 1886. Corporal Edwin Halliwell later became British Vice Consul for the Republic of Mexico; this work would solemnize marriages, record births and deaths of British subjects, act as commissioner of deeds, aid British subjects in mercantile concerns, protect and investigate their grievances. He is # 22 in the Picture.

**Simcoe McIntosh Daly** was born at London, Ontario on Dec. 1, 1864 son of Charles Daly and Annie Lee. He was a bank clerk in Belleville at the time of the outbreak in Saskatchewan and was a member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Argyll Light Infantry; he served as Lance Corporal during the Rebellion and was wounded on May 12, 1885. Later he was at the bank at Woodstock, was united in marriage on June 26, 1890 to Nellie Groves and removed to Lloydminster, Sk.; he claimed his Land Grant for his service in the North West Uprising. Here he worked as a realtor and remained there for the duration. He was remarried to Martha Maxwell after his wife's death on Oct. 23, 1921. Lance Corporal Simcoe McIntosh Daly died on May 5, 1953 and is interred at St. Philips Cemetery, Lloydminster, Sk. Section S7.8. He is not in the Picture.

**William Aris** was born on May 3, 1853 son of Thomas Aris and Ann Wenn. He was a farmer and market gardener and worked his land on the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession, Lot 10, Thurlow Township. A member of the 15<sup>th</sup> A.L.I. since before the Riel affair, he served as Lance Corporal during the Battle of Batoche and returned to Belleville with the Midland Battalion. He continued to serve with the Argyll Infantry, rose to the rank of Sergeant Major and was a member of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans; he was a confirmed bachelor. Lance Corporal William Aris died on Jan 19, 1942 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery Section J Row 7 Plot 25. He is not in the Picture.

**Robert William Baker** was born at Croyden, Surrey, England on Jan. 14, 1866 son of Henry Baker and Sarah Bruce. He was married there in April 1884 to Elizabeth Wools but soon found himself in Belleville and a member of the 15<sup>th</sup> A.L.I. He saw duty at Batoche as a Private and returned with the Midland Battalion to Belleville. A livery man by trade, he engaged with the N.W.M.P. on Aug. 15, 1885 and completed his 5 year tenure posted at Lethbridge. After a stint as a fireman he re-enlisted on Sept. 19, 1891, ran into discipline issues and deserted on Oct. 1, 1892. Baker settled at Butte, Montana and after a short while tried unsuccessfully to rejoin his unit. He remained at Butte, served in the Spanish American War which ran from Apr. 21 1898 to Aug. 13, 1898 and rose to the rank of Corporal. Private Robert William Baker died at Butte, Montana on Oct. 6, 1924 and is interred at St. Patricks Cemetery. He is # 7 in the Picture.

The following is a portion of a letter written by Private Baker in which he asks pardon for deserting the N.W.M.P. and describing his connection with the Argyll Light Infantry.



Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 77

54  
Buttfield  
U.S.M. Mount

To Hon<sup>ble</sup> Fred White Esq  
Comptroller  
N. W. M. P. Co.  
Canada & Alaska  
Territories

OCT  
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1897

OCT  
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1897

I have the honor to forward  
this my application for your discretion  
for a pardon from the above Gov.  
Early in the Spring of 1885, I entered  
Capt<sup>n</sup> J. Day's Company of Volunteers,  
viz: 15<sup>th</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> I. C. I. at Bellefleur Co.  
and departed for Kingston, where I received  
Drill Manual of Arms &c, and left  
for the North West. I was out in the  
Territories nearly four months, and can  
assure you went through a great  
deal of hardship. Immediately after  
the Rebellion, I joined the N. W. M. P. Co.  
and served for years in "K" Division  
leaving as a Corporal. Having an engagement  
with the N. W. C. & A. N. Company, I immediately

**Jesse William Barlow** was born in a log house on Pine Street, Belleville on Dec 12, 1863 son of George Barlow and Mary Ann Allcock and served as a Private during the North West campaign. After the capture of Riel, his Company was sent to Frog Lake where Riel and his Metis Indians had massacred 3 nuns and 2 priests and set their house on fire; his unit buried the victims and fashioned a cross over the graves. Barlow left the A.L.I. with the rank of Color Sergeant in 1897 and was employed by the railroad for 42 years, first as a fireman and later an engineer. A widower after the death of his wife Ida Leonard in 1891 aged 23, he was married on Feb. 21, 1894 to Mary Jane Montgomery. He served his community as a member of the Board of Education and of city council. Private Jesse Barlow was the lone local remaining member of the A.L.I. that fought in the uprising; he died in Belleville on Aug. 8, 1956 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery Section P Row 4 Plot S15W. He is # 14 in the picture.

**James Brodie** was born in Belleville on April 20, 1862 son of Mungo Brodie and Agnes Scott, immigrants from Scotland. He was a member of the A.L.I. and hurriedly joined the Company at Kingston having missed their departure from the City. After his return with the Midland Battalion he removed to Toronto where, engaged as a barber, he married on Aug. 15, 1888 to Emma MacDonald. A widower, he remarried in 1891 to Ellen Naylor a native of Belleville and about 1893 immigrated to North Hollywood, California ; here he was employed as a salesman of barber and butcher supplies. Private James Brodie died on June 12, 1943 and is interred at the Valhala Memorial Park Cemetery Section 595, Block A, Grave 2. He is # 30 in the Picture.

**Charles Wesley Brundage** was born at the farmhouse in Murray Township near Trenton on Oct 26, 1858 son of John Brundage and Letitia Kines. After the Rebellion he returned home to the Parry Sound district and was united in marriage on Aug. 5, 1890 to Margaret Brown. He took advantage of the Western Canada Land Grant available to Veterans of the North West uprising eventually settling at Battle River, Alberta where he was engaged as a farmer. Later he removed to Vancouver, B.C. and was employed at a saw mill where he worked alongside his sons. Private Charles Wesley Brundage died on July 25, 1936 and is interred at the Mountain View Cemetery, Plot Jones 37-005-008A. He is # 4 in the Picture.

**Charles Frederick Burnham** was born at Clinton, Ontario on Mar. 2, 1854 son of Dr. George Burnham and Mary Johns. He was one of the few married men of the 15<sup>th</sup> Argyll Light Infantry when he went to the North West having been married on Oct 26, 1875 to Mary Hostland. Rising to the rank of Sergeant, and a widower, working as a blacksmith in Toronto, he remarried on Nov 28, 1887 at Belleville to Amelia Tugnett. He spent time in Belleville as a coachman and as a gardener in Toronto and on Jan. 4, 1912 filed a land claim at Turtle River, Saskatchewan. Private Charles Frederick Burnham died on Mar. 16, 1925 and is interred at Edam Municipal Cemetery, Saskatchewan, Section BLK, Row 38. He is # 5 in the Picture.

## North West Canada Medal



Obverse



Reverse

### Conflict

Canadian North-West Rebellion 1885.

Further relevant historical context can be found at the foot of this entry.

### History

The Northwest Canada Medal was a British Empire campaign medal presented for service during the North-West Rebellion of 1885. The medal was instituted in February 1885 and was awarded to the soldiers, volunteers and North-West Mounted Police personnel who participated in operations west of Port Arthur, Ontario to suppress a rebellion by the Métis people under Louis Riel against the government of Canada.

The medal was also awarded to some volunteers, including the crew of the steamer 'Northcote' for service at the Battle of Batoche, and members of the Prince Albert Volunteers force for service at Duck Lake.

Some 1,760 of these medals were issued with only sixteen to British troops the rest being issued to members of the local forces.

### Description

The medal is circular, 36mm in diameter and was struck in silver. The obverse of this medal bears the diademed head of Queen Victoria and the inscription; 'VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX'.

The reverse has the inscription; 'NORTH WEST CANADA' and the date; '1885' within a wreath of maple leaves.

The ribbon suspender is of the plain, straight and swivelling style, attached to the medal by a claw mount.

The medal was issued unnamed, however many were named locally in various styles.

**Charles Salyer Clapp** was born at Belleville on Feb. 28, 1864 son of Philip Clapp and Sarah Van Tassel. He attended school in Northumberland County and on returning to Belleville was employed in the bakery and confectionery business. He served in the A.L.I. unit from 1880 to 1902 and saw action during the Battle of Batoche as a Private; in 1890 he was gazetted as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. Clapp was united in marriage to Ida Story on Oct. 27, 1896 and that same year he opened his own confectionery and bakery establishment. He penned his "Reminiscences of '85" which is a compelling read and can be found

online at "With the Midland Battalion to Batoche". Private Charles Salyer Clapp died on Feb. 23, 1931 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery Section C, Row 4, Plot 23. He is # 32 in the Picture.

**Jeremiah Conners** was an immigrant from Ireland and a member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Argyll Light Infantry; he was the oldest soldier of "A" Company. He saw duty during the Battle of Batoche and, as did the others, fashioned his own equipment. The forage cap was made from potato sackings, the bandolier constructed from canvas and a haversack of thin cloth. The pieces of equipment were originated by the men themselves and later adopted as 'regulation'. The fly-protectors, worn under the cap, served to shade the neck were sent by the ladies of Belleville along with a nightshirt for each soldier. They wore scarlet tunics and carried .57 calibre Snider Rifles. Private Jeremiah Conners returned with his unit to Belleville and along with his wife Cathrine farmed his land on Concession 2, Lot 6, Thurlow Township. He is # 34 in the Picture

**John Augustus Corbett** was born at Jullundur, India on Nov. 19, 1863 son of Dr. Augustus Patrick Meyers Corbett and Sarah Mason. His father was born in Kingston, Ontario, was a graduate in Medicine from McGill University in 1854 and immediately served as a member of the British Army.

**Augustus Patrick Meyers Corbett.** A.S. Staff, 3 Nov. 1854, aflds. ante-dated 27 Oct. 1854: 68 F. 29 June 1855: Staff, 26 Oct. 1860: R.A. 28 Jan. 1862. S. Staff, 14 May 1867: Rifle Brigade, 7 Dec. 1867: R.A. 14 Feb. 1872. A.M.D., S.M., 14 May 1867: Brig. S. 27 Nov. 1879. *d.* at Gosport, 25 Mar. 1880. *C. b.* at Kingston, Canada, 23 Dec. 1830. M.D., McGill Coll., Montreal, 1854. Was appointed Acting A.S. 27 Oct. 1854.

After his father died in 1880, Corbett immigrated to Canada, was a soldier in the A.L.I. and saw duty at Batoche. Afterwards he removed to Iowa and was united in marriage on Oct. 9, 1890 to Elizabeth Guyton. Private John Augustus Corbett died at Sioux City, Iowa on June 23, 1895 and is interred at Floyd Cemetery Section Orchard, Block 285 Lot 1. He is # 23 in the Picture.

**George Cox** was born in Belleville in 1866 son of Thomas Cox and Elizabeth Ryan. He was aged 19 at the time of his service with the Argyll Light Infantry and returned to Belleville with the Midland Battalion after the Battle at Batoche. He was a wood turner by profession, was united in marriage on Aug. 16, 1888 to Mary Clarke, a native of Flint Michigan. Their daughter was born on Oct. 31, 1888 and at the age of 12 was living as a boarder in Trenton, Ontario; her parents can't be traced. Private George Cox may have died in the interim of Tuberculosis as this disease was responsible for the death of his brother.

**George Thomas Eves** was born in April 1853 in Belleville son of James Eves and Jane Britton; his father was in the Soda Water business, manufacture and bottling. George was in the lumbering business and a



carpenter and after his return to Belleville from the North West Rebellion he enlisted with the N.W.M.P. on Oct. 24, 1885. He was however discharged on May 28, 1889 as being physically unfit for further Police Service. Private George Thomas Eves died in Toronto on Nov. 9, 1901. He is # 28 in the Picture.

COPY FOR THE COMMISSIONER.

Form No. 84a.

**North West Mounted Police Force, Canada.**

**DISCHARGE.**

This is to Certify that George Eves  
served as Constable  
in the above Force from October 24<sup>th</sup> 1885 to May 28<sup>th</sup> 1889  
and is now discharged in consequence of being physically  
unfit for further Police Service  
Dated at Regina  
Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1889  
Conduct during Service

*[Signature]*  
Commissioner N. W. M. P.

*[Signature]*  
Commissioner N. W. M. P.

Person named above is discharged

**John Emerson Fry** was born at Campden, Lincoln County, Ontario on Sept. 15, 1862 son of Joseph Fry and Nancy Albright. He served in the Midland Battalion during the operations to suppress Louis Riel's 2<sup>nd</sup> Rebellion in 1885. All members of the Militia forces who were on active service in the North West were entitled to a grant of 320 acres of land; Fry claimed his entitlement and settled near Selkirk, Saskatchewan. Private John Emerson Fry died at the nearby Hoover Settlement, Sk. on Dec. 31, 1922 and is interred at the family plot at Mountainview Cemetery, Campden, Ontario. He is # 25 in the Picture.

**George Benjamin Gerow** was born at Rossmore, Ameliasburgh Township on June 4, 1864 son of David Gerow and Elizabeth Weese. He returned with "A" Company after the Riel affair and immigrated to Minnetto, New York on July 12, 1888. He was a painter by trade, was united in marriage to Evelyn Fletcher, a native of Canada and became a naturalized American in 1908. Private George Benjamin Gerow died on Mar. 4, 1928 and is interred at the Minnetto Cemetery Plot 69D. He is # 11 in the Picture.

**William Henry Gordon** was born in Belleville in 1859 son of Robert Gordon and Harriet Coleman. He was a married man, united with Mary Harkins on July 25, 1883 at Shannonville, Tyendinaga Township, when he went west with the Midland Battalion. She was pregnant with their first child and delivered after his return to Belleville. Gordon was employed as a machinist working for the J.M. Walker Co. an agricultural implements dealer. Unfortunately their child died in infancy and his wife died on Jan 17, 1887 aged 24 of consumption (tuberculosis). Private William Henry Gordon died at Toronto on May 19, 1891 of fulminating tuberculosis. He is # 31 in the Picture.

**John Daly Hamilton** was born at Warkworth on May 20, 1865 son of James Hamilton and Martha Fraser. During the North West Rebellion he was the Company Bugler and afterwards attended law school in Toronto. He returned to Belleville where he spent time as a law clerk but later was employed as a book keeper. He was thrice married. First to Catherine Ball in Belleville on Jan. 10, 1894; a widower, he removed to Cuyahoga, Ohio where he was engaged as a musician and wed Marie Ellenberger on May 16, 1900. And again on Jan 18, 1906 at age 40 wed 18 year old Alice Webber at Hamilton, Ontario. Private John Daly Hamilton is #17 in the Picture.

**Thomas Hammond** was a member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Argyll Light Infantry both before and after the Battle at Batoche. He was employed as a hammer maker with H.H. Warren at Bridgewater, Hastings County, a village about 28 miles distant from Belleville; the hammer factory turned out 40 dozen hammers per day. The decision as to which of the four Companies should go to the front was decided by the cast of lots. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1885 "A" and "C" were the lucky ones while "B" and "D" disembarked the *Northcote* taking all belongings. The *Northcote* went on down the South Saskatchewan River to Batoche. Private Hammond is # 6 in the Picture.

**Riley Allen Hart** was born at Castleton, Northumberland County on Mar. 30, 1866 son of Charles Hart and Sarepta Allen. After the Rebellion he returned to Castleton and was united in marriage on Nov 13, 1895 to Ada Moore; he was employed as a grocer. After the death of his wife he removed to Trenton, enlisted in the C.E.F. on April 15, 1916 and served overseas with the 155<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Because of disability from rheumatism, he was invalided to Kingston, Ontario where he wed Emma Lake on Oct 23, 1917 and was discharged from the Army on Dec 31, 1917 as 'medically unfit'. Private Riley Allen Hart died on July 21, 1918 at the Euclid Hall Military Convalescent Hospital in Toronto and was interred at the Castleton Cemetery Section D-N, Row 4, Plot 2. He is not in the Picture.

**William Woods Haslett** was born at Belleville on Oct. 9, 1866 son of John Haslett and Frances Woods. He saw action on several fronts as a sailor, soldier, policeman and more. As a youth, Haslett sailed aboard the *Atalanta* when it was entered for the America Cup Race and held the "championship of the

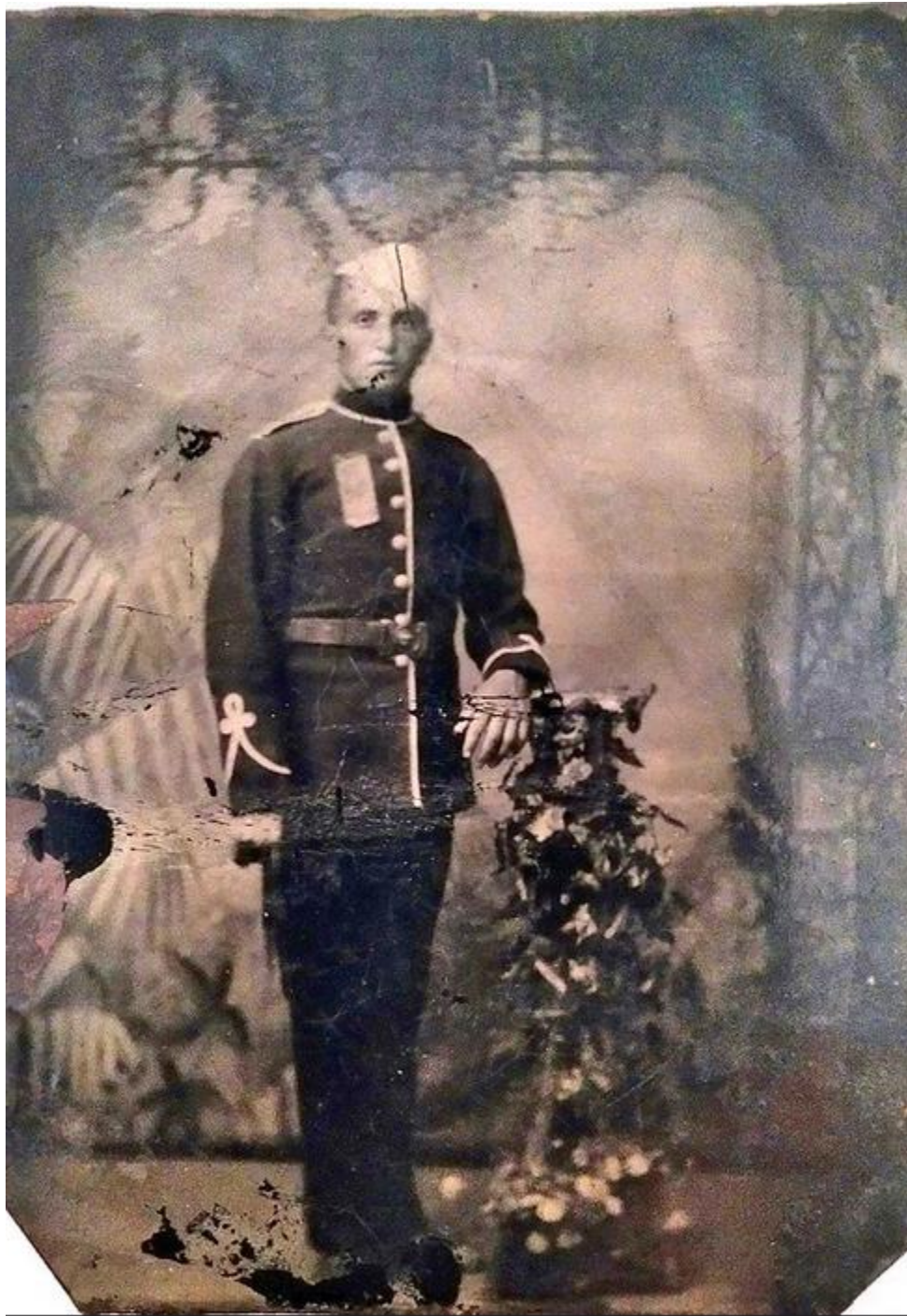
fresh waters" from 1880-1885 aboard such vessels as the Katie Gray and the Resolute. He went west with the "A" Company and on return enlisted with the N.W.M.P. on Oct. 24, 1885. His areas of service included Battleford, Fort Saskatchewan, Wood Mountain, Depot, Whitehorse Rapids and Fort MacLeod. Haslett was promoted to Corporal Oct. 24, 1890, Sergeant July 28, 1893, reduced to Constable Oct. 10, 1899, again Corporal Mar. 21, 1900, Sergeant Aug. 1, 1900 and Staff Sergeant Aug. 1, 1910. During his career he dealt with "bad Indians and white law-breakers". Haslett was present at the hanging of Riel in Regina and was one of the company that was sent over to attend Queen Victoria's Jubilee Celebration. Sergeant Haslett was married on Dec. 24, 1907 at Crowsnest Pass, Alberta to Elizabeth McArthur. He resigned the Force in 1911 and in 1916 became Riding Master with the Hamilton Canadian Mountain Rifles. Private William Woods Haslett died in Toronto on Mar. 28, 1941 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery in Section M, Row 8, Plot 21N. He is # 16 in the Picture.

**Charles Eyre Henderson** was born in Belleville about 1854, son of George Eyre Henderson, Q.C. and Julia O'Reilly. Mr. Henderson was a lawyer and served as Mayor of Belleville in 1874. Charles went west with the Midland Battalion in the spring of 1885 when the Riel trouble had broken out anew and was at Batoche when the sharpest fighting of the campaign began; it lasted 4 days when Riel finally surrendered. Private Charles Eyre Henderson returned home with his unit; he predeceased his father who died on Dec. 29, 1895. He is not in the Picture.

**William Herrington** was born in 1866 and made the trip west to Batoche to suppress the Indians and others who had risen in rebellion under the leadership of Riel. It was a gruelling month of travel by train, horse-drawn sleighs, open flatbed rail cars in frigid weather and forced marches through raging snow storms; quite the adventure for a lad of 19 with no military experience and not yet of voting age. Private William Herrington is # 10 in the Picture.

**Edward William Stephen Howard** was born in Sarnia, Ontario on Sept. 13, 1863 son of Dyer Howard and Elizabeth Hill, the father serving as the local bailiff. The family removed to Sydney Township and after returning from the Battle at Batoche he was engaged as a barber. He was married on Aug. 3, 1886 in Belleville to Susan Morton and immigrated to Buffalo, N.Y. in 1894 and became a naturalized American in 1906. E.W.S. Howard traded in his clippers, became a qualified Osteopathic Physician and in 1904 established himself in New York City where he remained for the duration. He was divorced in 1916 and remarried to Rose Fleetwood. Dr. Edward William Stephen Howard died on Mar. 16, 1946 and is interred at Fairfield Memorial Park, Connecticut, Cedarcrest Section, Plot 385 Grave 1. He is not in the Picture.

**Robert James Keirl** was born at the farmhouse on the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession, Thurlow Township on July 10, 1867



son of Charles Keirl and Charlotte McDonald. After his return from the west, he worked his farm and was married on Dec 21, 1887 to Mary Grills. About 1912 he became a permanent cripple in spite of which he remained active and on May 29, 1927 attended the Military Service at St. Thomas Church with the Veterans of '85. Private Robert James Keirl died on June 4, 1927 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery Section N, Row 12, Plot 15. He is # 24 in the Picture.



**William George Kerr** was born at the farmhouse near Bailieboro, Ontonabee Township, Peterborough County on Feb 22, 1861 son of Samuel Kerr and Margaret Vandervoort. He was present at the Battle of Batoche and returned home with the Midland Battalion afterwards. He was married on Sept. 5, 1888 to Edith Beckett and later established himself at Toronto where he was employed as a farmer and gardener. He is not in the Picture.

**William Livingstone** was born in Renfrew, Ontario in 1864 son of William Livingstone and Mary Palmer, immigrants from Ireland. After he returned to Belleville with "A" Company he married on July 27, 1887 to Annie Reynolds in Trenton. Shortly before the turn of the century, he removed his family to Pittsburgh, Pa. where he was employed as a wagoner. William Livingstone died of tuberculous pneumonia in Pittsburgh on Jan. 12, 1900; his 4 children, some of whom had tuberculosis, were all placed in orphanages. It is notable that his son was awarded the Purple Heart in W.W.1. Private William Livingstone is interred at Highwood Cemetery. He is # 26 in the Picture.

**Hugh McCullough** was born at Plainville, Northumberland County on Feb 13, 1858 son of Sam McCullough and Jane Constine; his family kept the post office and operated a general store there for over 50 years. In his youth he taught school, later going to Belleville to take a business course. While there he joined the volunteers who went out to assist in putting down the Riel Rebellion. He was married on June 18, 1887 to Anabelle Neill at Plainville. McCullough entered Military School in Toronto, served as an officer in the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment and went overseas for 2 years during W.W.1 attaining the rank of Major. Later he removed to Cobourg where he was Registrar of Deeds for Northumberland County until 1937. Private Hugh McCullough died at Cobourg on May 19, 1942 and is interred at Cobourg Cemetery Section B, Row 7, Plot 38. He is not in the Picture.

**William McGuire** was born in Belleville on Apr. 6, 1865 son of James McGuire and Elizabeth Guyett; his father operated the Albion Hotel on Front Street. He went west with the A.L.I. to assist in quelling the Rebellion and returned with his unit to Belleville. Private William McGuire died on Aug. 7, 1887 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery Section P, Row 5, Plot S45. He is # 13 in the picture.

**William Albert Morton** was born at Ogdensburg, New York on Oct. 30, 1862 son of Albert Morton and Elizabeth Thomson. In 1885 he served in the North West Rebellion being connected with "A" Company from the 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment. He returned to Belleville, was a popular member of the Belleville Police Force and was united in marriage on Jan. 1, 1894 to Edith Brown. The following article appeared in the Belleville Intelligencer on Nov. 17, 1893.

Belleville police force has a man in the person of Officer Morton, who is made of the proper kind of material for the business. He had orders to arrest a man and found him in a row boat in the harbor some distance from the shore. The man refused to surrender and the officer took to the water, gave the wanted man a good ducking and landed him in the cells. Officer Morton was pivot man in No. 1 Company Midland Battalion throughout the Northwest Rebellion and led the charge at Batoche. It is not to be supposed that a man of his stamp would be turned from duty by a bit of cold water.

Private William Albert Morton died at Brockville, Ontario on Oct. 21, 1907 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery Section M, Row 6, Plot 23E. He is # 19 in the Picture.

**Burton Palmer** was born at Corbyville, Thurlow Township on Apr. 7, 1868 son of Wellington Palmer and Agnes Spencer. He immigrated to the United States shortly after returning from the Battle at Batoche and established himself at Denver, Colorado where he operated his own blacksmith shop. He was married on Dec. 4, 1893 to Mary Ryan, divorced on Feb. 28, 1923 and removed to Southfield, Oakland County, Michigan where he married on Nov. 2, 1924 to Iva Gulick; here he was employed as a farmer, gardener/florist. Private Burton Palmer was involved in a motor vehicle accident in Detroit, succumbed to injuries on Aug. 3, 1940 and is interred at Southfield Cemetery. He is # 8 in the Picture.

**Harry Smart** was born in Belleville in Aug. 1854 son of Judge William Smart and Sarah Alexander, grandson of Reverend William Smart of Belleville. After the Rebellion, he returned home and in 1895 served as secretary of the North West 10 year reunion committee. He removed to Capetown, Western Cape, South Africa where he was employed at the Cape Government Railways as a clerk. Private Harry Smart died at the Woodstock Cottage Hospital of a cerebral haemorrhage on Nov. 29, 1906 and is interred at Maitland Cemetery, Capetown. He is # 15 in the Picture.

**Samuel Louis Soule** was born at Newburgh, Ontario on Nov. 3, 1864 son of Robert Soule and Margaret Milligan. He removed with his parents to Belleville and at the time of the Rebellion in the North West he enlisted and served during the campaign. He was united in marriage on June 30, 1886 to Susanna Jordan and for over 25 years held the position of bailiff in the city and district. Private Samuel Louis Soule died

on July 6, 1937 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery in Section N, Row 16, Plot 17. He is # 3 in the Picture.

**Andrew Thompson** was born in Percy Township, Northumberland County on Sept. 14, 1865 son of Sylvester Thompson and Calista Jane Cunningham. He was 19 at the time of his service in the Riel Rebellion and on his return he married on Jan. 1, 1889 to Florence Platt. He operated a successful bakery and grocery business at Warkworth for many years. Private Andrew Thompson died on June 9, 1942 and is interred at the Warkworth Cemetery Section 2, Row 7, Plot 19. He is # 29 in the Picture.

**Lewis Venn** was born in Hastings County on July 4, 1861. He returned to Belleville after serving in quelling the Rebellion at Batoche and was engaged as a cabinet maker. He married Margaret Beaupre a widow, and raised his daughter Eva born in 1887 in Belleville. After about a decade he removed to Durham County where he worked as a mechanic and died at Stacyville on May 8, 1907. He is # 33 in the Picture.

**Lewis Wallbridge** was born at Belleville on May 15, 1863 son of Francis Wallbridge and Clarinda Stewart. During the North West Rebellion he served from April to July 1885 with "A" Company of the Midland Battalion, a composite unit commanded by Lt. Col. Williams. He trained as a mechanical engineer in St. Paul, Minnesota and later served in the South African War; he never married. Wallbridge kept a personal diary of his war experience which is now at Library Archives Canada. Private Lewis Wallbridge died on June 22, 1903 and is interred at the Belleville Cemetery Section K, Row 32, Plot 11. He is not in the Picture.

**George Smith Willson** was born at the farmhouse near Chapman, 2 miles south of Tweed, on Feb 9, 1858 son of Edward Willson and Jane Reed. He was engaged as a school teacher when he went west with the Midland Battalion in 1885. He returned with his unit and when married to Sara Easterbrook on Sept. 14, 1898 he was enrolled in medical school. His wife died in 1903 and he eventually settled at Lulu Island, B.C. where he died on May 2, 1922. Private George Smith Willson is interred at Victoria Cemetery, Tweed. He is not in the Picture.

**William Welsh** was born in Belleville on April 30, 1867 son of Patrick Welsh and Lavinia Lawrence who married at Trenton on May 1, 1864. He served in the Argyll Light Infantry with "A" Company and returned with the Battalion to Belleville where he was a general laborer. Private William Welsh is # 27 in the Picture.

**John Young** was born in Germany about 1862 son of William and Mary Young. They immigrated and settled first in Huntingdon Township, Hastings County and later removed to Belleville. Private John Young saw action in the Battle of Batoche and returned with the Midland Battalion. He is # 12 in the Picture.

On Dominion Day, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1886 the two Battalions were brigaded and marched up Front Street to Hotel, up Hotel to Pinnacle and the troops assembled at the old Cricket Field in Belleville. There the Brigade formed a hollow square and a platform was placed in the centre; the ceremony was to award the men their medals for their North West service. Colonel Lazier: "you are about to receive a soldier's reward for valiant service in the field; a distinctive mark of appreciation awarded to those who had shown their patriotism and heroism". As the men stepped forward the silver medals were pinned upon the left breast, the side of the Queen's profile being exposed.

**Private Frank Young** was a volunteer in "A" Company, North West Field Force, and was neither at the medal presentation nor in the Picture.

