



THE CREST

THE SALVATION ARMY ARCHIVES, CANADA AND BERMUDA

From The Jottings of The Late Colonel Robert Watt

A few weeks ago we received a collection of personal papers from the daughter of the late Colonel Watt. (see "These We Have Known" - back page. It made for some interesting reading especially his gleanings and notes from the early issues of the War Cry.

October 19, 1895 -Wanted for Social Farm: One disc harrow, 2 horses for plowing, one grain seeder, one horse hay- rake, one double set of harness, a 12 H.P. threshing engine, a double wagon, a mowing machine, a horse roller, a one horse tread power and one silage cutter. Anyone having one or more of the above, and will give as a donation, write Brigadier Jacobs, Salvation Temple, Toronto.

The Staff Band was with Colonel Holland and gave a lift to Lippincott Corps on Sunday October 6th.

The Old Eglinton Barracks has been transferred to the new farm. Brigadier Jacobs has set his heart on the new colony

What has become of the ladies Brass Band? - "they are resting" said Brigadier Margetts, "they will be re-organized into a special singing, musical, salvation troupe. We also need more volunteers."

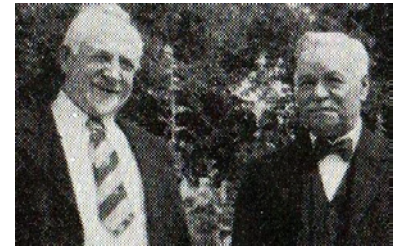
November 2, 1895 Newfoundland sending 25 officers to Canada, to help on the war. We can open twelve harbours and coves if we can only get good Holy Ghost soldiers to fill the gap and still transfer some to Canada.

January 4, 1896 Picture of an Old Timer. Adjutant Manton now busily employed in the Trade offices told us he was the first commissioned bandsman in the Army in Canada, and the first to beat an Army drum over its soil. Hurray!

("This comrade was quite prominent in the early days - later headed his own firm of printing supplies, inks etc., and for many years had the Salvation Army Printing Works as a customer. The firm is still(1978) listed in the yellow pages of the phone book. My wife Frances remembers him as CSM of Dovercourt Corps, about 1910." Robert Watt)

September 5, 1896 New Training Centre for Ontario to be opened in Toronto. Alterations taking place in the spacious edifice on Lippincott Street. It will accommodate 28 men cadets and 30 women and staff.

Who are these fine looking gentlemen?



(See back page.)

Excerpt from letter written by Colonel Jack Addie to Colonel Peacock, dated November 29, 1933

" Just a line of appreciation for your thoughtful note enclosing Kingston news clipping. Canada's first was some wedding. The announcement was "Captain Whats his name is to be married to Captain who do you think. I had to be there a few days in advance to get the license and help with the arrangements. Rumour immediately started that Captain Abbie Thompson and I were the contracting parties. This was so persistent and generally accepted that Abbie made public denial and emphatically stated that her name was Thompson and Thompson it was going to remain as long as she lived. You can imagine the aftermath of this statement when a few months later she married Staff Captain Thompson of New York Headquarters....."

(continued on page two)

Colonel Robert Watt Jottings Continued.....

The first hall to be used by The Salvation Army in Toronto in the late summer of 1882 was a former Chinese Mission Hall and was located on Chestnut street in what was to become known as Chinatown. Captain Wass took over from Brother Freer who had been holding both indoor and open-air meetings for a period of two to three months. It was probably September when the Army moved into the Chestnut building. With Wass in full time charge the work quickly expanded, and he then secured the coliseum on Alice Street. The hall was packed every night, lots of seekers and tremendous crowds in Queen's park. After using various buildings at the commencement in 1882 the Army built a very fine building on Richmond Street, west of Spadina. The site is now part of the much larger Men's Social Rehab.



Dispos in the early 1900's give the address of the corps as 149 Baldwin Street and I thought I would try to find this place. There is a cheese Shop now (1979) at this location. I saw a house on the corner of Huron, 109 Baldwin with plants in the window which suggested some lives there who cares and may have a long memory. I knocked on the door and the gentleman who answered said that he had only lived there a few years but he would introduce me to the elderly man who lived next door at 111 Baldwin.

The old gent invited me in and said that he had lived there all his life but could not remember anything about the Army being in the neighborhood. He told me his age(84) and I said "I am not much younger, and I suppose neither of us will be around much longer", to which he agreed. I asked him if he were ready to leave this world and he said that he had not given much thought to that.

I said that we can all go to heaven if we put our trust in God and believe that He loved us enough to send His Son Jesus to Save us and make us ready for heaven. I said it would be great if he and I met in heaven. "If you believe this to be true will you say a little prayer after me and believe that God hears us?" He said he would pray, so after me, sentence by sentence he said "Dear God, I believe that Your Son Jesus came to save us and that for His sake you will pardon our sins and make us ready to go to heaven when we are finished here on earth." I asked him if he meant this and he said, "Yes." So I said, "Now let us make sure to meet each other in heaven. Will you look out for me?" "Yes." he said.

Wouldn't it be grand if our little prayer inside the doorway really did make a way for us to meet in heaven? R.W. 1979

Colonel Jack Addie tells it like it was!



In the spring of 1882 a young Jack Addie and Joe Ludgate met at a church service and soon were conducting open-air meetings in the City of London, Ontario's Market Place. In a letter to Colonel Gaskin the Field Secretary, Colonel Addie set the record straight as to the commencement dates of the first corps in Canada.see page three

125 Years and counting..

One hundred and twenty five years and still going strong. The birth of The Salvation Army in Canada still has some uncertainty as to when and who actually brought it into being and exactly when. The Archives contains a wealth of material relative to the early days and one can find any amount of material to support the various positions - who was first, was it London, was it Toronto ? The Tackaberry files, War Cry reports and various personal research papers all add to the color and controversy which contributed to the great debate as to who was number one.

Original Letter.

In the archives we have an original letter dated March 10, 1914 written by the then Lieut-Colonel Jack Addie Secretary For Charities & Prisons , Western USA Territory, in response to a letter from Colonel Gaskin the Field Secretary for the Canada and Bermuda Territory. Colonel Gaskin had written to say, "We are very desirous of securing reliable and accurate information concerning the opening of The Salvation Army in Canada. Our records do not appear to be thoroughly up to date and consequently there is a measure of uncertainty as to their accuracy..."

Colonel Addie replies "*June 1, 1882 was the date that Ludgate and myself commenced real Army operations in London. Although your humble servant had been holding cottage meetings for some months previous, in company with a youth named Jim Cathcart, who in after years became an Officer. We wrote England asking for Officers to be sent to us. They sent us song books, War Crys, hat bands, etc. and advised us to get in touch with Commissioner Railton. Our letter to Railton failed to reach him and was returned unopened.*

We then got in touch with Major Moore in New York. He came over within two weeks, enrolled 50 soldiers and made Captains of Ludgate and myself. He ordered me to give up my secular employment and give my time to the care of converts and promised to send officers to relieve me in two weeks. In August, as far as I can remember Captains Wass and Shirley arrived, the former to Toronto and the latter to London. After initiating Shirley and acting as her Lieutenant for a few weeks, your humble servant was ordered to open Hamilton, October 1882 and install and instruct Captain and Mrs. Freer and Lieutenant Wiseman.

Re: Toronto. Meetings were started in this city about one month later then London by a fellow named Coates(Court) , who afterward proved to be a crank and was dropped. He had quite a band of followers when Moore arrived and Toronto being the largest city was made No.1 Corps and London No. 2. Your dates with regard to Kingston and Chatham are about right." Lieut. Colonel Jack Addie

The above letter was sent to International Headquarters in response to their enquiry relative to opening dates of corps in Canada.

In his response to Lieut-Colonel Addie's letter Colonel Gaskin writes, "...the various details have been carefully noted and will assist us in bringing our records within the region of accuracy....thanking you most heartily.."

Note: Addie retired with the rank of Colonel and was promoted to Glory August 1939

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS:

- March 5, 2006 Marion Ford
- May 27, 2007 "Empress of Ireland
Memorial Service"
- Guest Speaker: Major Ronald Millar
- October 1, 2007 "International Youth
(TENTATIVE) Congress Reflections"
(50 years ago)

With the exception of the Empress of Ireland service the regular Historical Society meetings commence at 1:30 p.m. and are held in the Calvert Conference Room at Territorial Headquarters 2 Overlea Blvd. Toronto.



Jack Addie Joe Ludgate

(Circa 1882)

Top of front page:

Left: Joe Ludgate Right: Colonel Jack Addie

(circa 1938)

THESE WE HAVE KNOWN....

Their influence lives on.

Colonel and Mrs Robert Watt .

Colonel Watt had the unique experience of spending his entire career in the Finance Department. His first appointment as Lieutenant was to the Finance Department in the Winnipeg Territorial Headquarters. From there he was appointed to the Finance Department in Toronto. A number of appointments in the Finance department led to the Colonel eventually being appointed as the Territorial Financial Secretary for The Canada and Bermuda Territory, a position he held for seventeen years. For the last few months prior to his retirement he was on special assignment and an advisor to his successor.



Colonel Watt, a Scot by birth, came out of the Brandon, Manitoba Corps where he was raised and spent his early boyhood. He was converted early in life and took part in the life of the Brandon Corps, serving as the Corps Secretary and Songster Leader before entering the Winnipeg Training College in 1923. A capable musician the Colonel was instrumental in the early development of the North Toronto Corps Band, being the Bandmaster for several years and personally tutoring many young lads. For many years he also conducted the massed songsters on festival occasions in Massey Hall.

Mrs. Colonel Watt, the former Captain Frances Neill ably supported her husband and for thirty-two years was an active member of the League of Mercy and was the Divisional League of Mercy Secretary. She also gave leadership to a number of National organizations. Colonel and Mrs. Watt had two daughters and a number of grandchildren to delight them.

In retirement the Colonel spent many hours researching early day Army properties and officers. Evidence of his work resides in the Archives and proves a valuable research resource.