

Canada, Mississauga, and The Second Boer War

By Isaac Joseph

A Short History of the War

The Second Boer War, also known as the South African War, was a war fought between Great Britain and the Boers, the white settlers of two small republics in modern-day South Africa, the Transvaal Republic and the Orange Free State. Prior to the war relations between Great Britain and the Boer Republics had been tumultuous, to say the least. The British had previously attempted to annex the republics in the First Boer War which lasted from 1880-1881. To further conflict between the two, in 1886, gold was discovered near the Transvaal capital of Pretoria causing an influx of British settlers from the nearby Cape Colony. The British settlers were regarded as second-class citizens and denied the right to vote, with their heavy taxes directed elsewhere in the republics. An 1895 attempt by the colonial administration in Cape Colony to cause an uprising among the British settlers failed, much to the embarrassment of Whitehall. An attempt to resolve the rapidly rising tensions between Great Britain and the Boer Republics through negotiations broke down and on October 11, 1899, the Boers declared war.

Despite some tremendous early successes, as the war dragged on and Imperial reinforcements arrived in the country, the Boers found themselves on the back foot. By October of 1900, the British controlled both of the Republics. As a result, the Boers began to adopt a campaign of guerilla warfare.

Faced to cover large swathes of land against a foe that enjoyed support from the local populace, the Imperial forces adopted a scorched earth policy, burning farms and destroying supplies. The local population was herded into concentration camps where disease and malnutrition ran rampant. The resultant outrage expressed by the British public regarding the camp's conditions eventually saw an improvement in conditions and a halt to new internments, but the camps would function until the end of the war.

Burdened by British policies and harassed by Imperial forces, the Boers sought peace. The war concluded on May 31, 1902, with the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging. The Boer Republics became British subjects and in 1910, the various British South African colonies were brought together into the Union of South Africa.

By the end of the conflict, Imperial forces suffered around 22,000 dead, only around 7,000 having been killed in combat, the rest having died from diseases, injuries, or in some cases, the African wildlife. The Boers suffered a similar number of soldiers killed. As with many wars, the civilian casualties were far higher. An estimated 28,000 Boer civilians are believed to have died, mostly due to poor conditions in the concentration camps. A further 20,000 black Africans, who had been isolated in camps separate from the Boers, also died in the conflict.

The Canadian Contribution

Around 8,372 Canadian soldiers would serve in the Boer War, with many others serving in British or other Imperial forces, before moving to Canada in their later life. The reception of the war amongst the Canadian public was mixed. The French and Irish population was generally opposed to the war, viewing it as an Imperialistic English fight against their fellow Christians. Others, primarily English-Canadians were in favour of the war, viewing it as their duty to the Empire, to spread British ideals and practices, and in some cases, their duty to bring freedom to the native population of South Africa, oppressed by the White Boers.

As a compromise between the two sides, Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier agreed to send a battalion of Canadian volunteers. It would be the first time Canadian troops would be sent overseas. Over the course of the war, several contingents of Canadians would volunteer for service in South Africa. A number of Canadians would also serve in paramilitary and irregular British forces as well as on the home front. In total, around 7300 Canadian volunteers (including 12 female nurses) would go overseas to South Africa. 247 Canadians would die while serving in the war, mainly to injuries and diseases.

As a mark of their service, Imperial troops would receive the Queen's South Africa Medal. Given to anyone who served in South Africa during the duration of the war, there were 26 clasps for the medal, denoting specific actions, locations or time frames in which they served. A total of 3,860 Queen's South Africa Medals would be given to Canadian soldiers.

Canadian volunteers would receive 4 Victoria Crosses, 19 Distinguished Service Orders, and 18 Distinguished Conduct Medals. 5 people would be made Companions of the Order of the Bath and 6 made Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. One soldier, Private Richard R. Thompson of 2 RCRI, would receive a crocheted scarf personally made by Queen Victoria for attempting to save wounded men twice while under fire during the Battle of Paardeberg.

The First Contingent

The first group of Canadian volunteers, 1061-strong, would go overseas as the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry. The name of 2 RCRI represented a link to the infantry component of the Permanent Force, the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, members of which made up 15% of the overseas contingent.

The contingent departed Quebec City on October 30, 1899, aboard the ship SS Sardinian disembarking in Cape Town one month later on November 30. Many of the men had no prior military service or were poorly trained.

Having seen limited action, the battalion's trial by fire would come at the Battle of Paardeberg (February 18-27, 1900), the first major Canadian engagement of the war. On the first day of the battle, the Canadian and British soldiers came under heavy fire from Boer forces, attempting a charge before being pinned down and cut to pieces by Boer rifles. As night fell and "Bloody Sunday" drew to a close, over 1,100 British and Colonial forces lay dead or wounded, including 18 Canadians killed and 60 wounded. It would be Canada's worst loss in a single day of the war. After the disaster of the first day, the Imperial forces decided to surround and wait out the Boer forces until the time was right. That time came in the early morning of the 27th when a daring assault under the cover of darkness by the RCRI and the Royal Engineers saw the surrender of over 4,000 Boers, ten percent of their army.

Marching onwards after their victory, the Canadians would be present for the surrender of the Transvaal Capital of Pretoria. Their 12-month term of service having ended, many in the contingent would return to Canada, however, several would remain in the country afterwards.

The Second Contingent

The second group of volunteers constituted two regiments of mounted infantry, 1st and 2nd Battalions, Canadian Mounted Rifles and 3 artillery batteries forming the Brigade Division, Royal Canadian Field Artillery. The contingent would arrive in several stages during the early months of 1900.

Composed heavily of Permanent Force and Militia cavalymen, 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles, would be renamed the Royal Canadian Dragoons, the name of the Permanent Force's cavalry component. At the battle of Leliefontein (November 7, 1900), a small understrength force of Dragoons, numbering only around 100 men and aided by a pair of guns from the Royal Canadian Field Artillery would act as a rearguard for withdrawing British forces when they were attacked by a numerically superior force of Boers. The force would succeed in driving off the Boer forces, winning three Victoria Crosses (the most won by any Canadian unit in a single day) at the cost of 3 killed and 11 wounded.

2nd Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles was heavily composed of members of the North-West Mounted Police. The unit would be renamed to the 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles. Alongside the Dragoons, the Mounted Rifles would see action at the Battle of Doornkop. (May 28-29, 1900), the two regiments would serve as a flanking force that harassed Boer positions, while an infantry force, including 2 RCRI, stormed the Boer positions. It would be the only time the first and second contingents of Canadians would fight together. Throughout their tour, the men of the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles conducted themselves well in engagements and would gain a reputation for an aggressive approach to reconnaissance. For the service of NWMP officers in 1st CMR, the NWMP would be renamed the Royal North-West Mounted Police in 1904. The unit is perpetuated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which additionally has the battle honour of South Africa 1900-2.

The artillery component was split into 3 batteries, C, D, and E, (the Permanent Force consisting of A and B Batteries). Permanent Force and Militia gunners would serve as the core of each battery. The batteries would each be organised into three sections armed with 2 12-pounder field guns. The three artillery batteries would be split up (on occasion, the batteries themselves might split into sections) and dispatched to various locations. C Battery would take part in the relief of Mafeking (May 17, 1900), a small town in northern Cape Colony that had been besieged by Boers since the start of the war. A single section from D Battery would fight valiantly as part of the rearguard at the Battle of Leliefontein. E Battery would see service against Boer forces in western Cape Colony. The only time the batteries would reunite with each other would be at the end of their tour and for the journey back home to Canada.

Strathcona's Horse

In 1900, Donald Smith, 1st Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal, offered to personally raise a mounted regiment for service in the British Army in the Boer War. Though technically a British Army regiment, the unit was entirely recruited from western Canada and counted among

themselves a number of NWMP officers including the regiment's commanding officer Sam Steele.

The nearly 600-strong Strathcona's Horse arrived in Cape Town on April 10, 1900. The regiment would often be used as scouts and fought in a number of skirmishes. On July 5, 1900, Sergeant Arthur Richardson, a former NWMP officer, would earn a Victoria Cross for saving a wounded comrade during a skirmish at Wolve Spruit.

On their return to Canada, the unit stopped in London where King Edward VII personally awarded them their Queen's South Africa medal and presented them with the King's Colours. After returning to Canada the regiment was disbanded, however, it would be reformed in 1909 as the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) which exists to this day.

The Third Contingent

The third official contingent was made up of one mounted infantry regiment, 2nd Regiment, Canadian Mounted Infantry and the 10th Canadian Field Hospital, the only contingent to bring one. The contingent arrived rather late in the war, leaving Canada in January of 1902.

2 CMR was rather unique in that although trained and equipped by the Canadian Government, expenses were paid for by the British Government, who had requested the regiment's raising. Although the British had only requested four squadrons, an enthusiastic public response meant that six squadrons numbering 901 men and officers would be sent overseas. A number of the men and most of their officers had seen prior service in the war. The commanding officer was Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas D.B. Evans, the former commander of 1st Battalion, CMR. On March 31, 1902, a force of Imperial troops including men of 2 CMR was ambushed at Hart's River by a larger Boer force. 13 Canadians would be killed and 40 wounded, one of the bloodiest days of the war for Canada, second only to Paardeberg's "Bloody Sunday." The regiment would serve up until the end of the war, returning to Canada in June 1902.

The 10th CFH was rather small, numbering only 61 people. A section of the hospital moved with the 2 CMR while the rest set up at the town of Vaalbank, where they would treat over 1000 patients. The hospital's ambulance detachment would prove vital in transporting patients to long-term care facilities away from the front line.

The Fourth Contingent

The fourth official Canadian contingent of volunteers was the largest, consisting of around 2,000 men. They were divided into four battalions, each possessing four squadrons; the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Canadian Mounted Rifles. Many of the men were veterans from previous tours. The regiments never saw action, arriving in South Africa after the war ended. They returned to Canada in July of 1902 and disbanded.

Irregular, Paramilitary, and Garrison Forces

In 1901, Lieutenant Arthur "Gat" Howard, Royal Canadian Dragoons, conceived of an irregular unit of soldiers to serve as scouts for the Imperial Forces. The Canadian Scouts was raised in December 1900, and initially composed heavily of Canadian veterans. Highly valued for their skills, the Scouts were paid a bonus of two shillings per day above the standard rates at

the time. As the unit expanded and attrition took its toll, the Canadian Scouts would include men from throughout the Empire. Though not an official Canadian unit, the Canadian Scouts would have Canadian men in its ranks throughout the war, gaining a reputation for tenacity and valour.

Looking towards the war's end, the British sought to create a paramilitary force to keep the peace in the newly-conquered South African republics. Known as the South African Constabulary, it was created by Lord Robert Baden-Powell. 1238 Canadians enlisted to serve in the Constabulary in early 1901, about 10% of whom were previous veterans of the country. In some cases, Canadians already serving in the country transferred to the Constabulary when their tour of duty had ended. Despite their intended purpose as a police force, the SAC would often see heavy fighting during the war, with 57 Canadians being killed serving in their ranks.

Following the string of Boer victories at the beginning of the war and the apparent need for reinforcements, it was decided by the British to send the regiment stationed at its naval base in Halifax to South Africa. With the British needing a force to replace the outbound garrison, the Canadian government announced the creation of a new unit to be stationed in Halifax for the war's duration on February 8, 1900. Composed of militia members from across the country, the 1004-strong 3rd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry took up their post on March 25 of that same year. Though they did not serve overseas, the men of 3rd RCRI helped free up British forces for service in South Africa. More importantly, they set a precedent, in 1905, Canada began to assume responsibility for the defence of Halifax and 1906, the last British garrison in Canada returned home, their duties being taken over by Canada's own Permanent Force.

Mississauga Veterans

The residents of historic Mississauga who served in the Boer War include both those who served in Canadian contingents as well as in the British Army. Almost all of those who served were not born in Mississauga, but moved into historic Mississauga later in their lives (and in some cases, later moved out).

Unfortunately, it is impossible to create a truly complete list of those who served. Even amongst those who we know did serve, a full picture of their service cannot be created. For example, the same name can be possessed by people in different regiments, making finding the service records of people who simply say they served in South Africa incredibly difficult without more information. Service records are not a biography of what people did in the military. Information on what they did during specific actions or their general life in service must be gathered from the veterans themselves or those who knew of their experiences, which given the passage of time, is difficult to do so.

Agar Adamson DSO

Agar Stuart Allen Masterson Adamson was born on December 25, 1865, in Ottawa to James Adamson (1829-1891) and Mary Julia Derbyshire (1826-1892). He had two siblings, Montague (1864-?) and Herbert (1870-1932). The son of a lawyer, Adamson had a privileged upbringing, studying at Trinity College in Port Hope and later at Cambridge, though academic success eluded him and he left without a degree. During his time at Cambridge, Adamson participated in and won the Newmarket Stakes, demonstrating himself to be an excellent horseman, a skill that would undoubtedly be put to good use on the veldt.

In 1890, following in the footsteps of his father, Adamson took a job as a junior clerk in the Canadian Senate. In 1893, Agar was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant into the Governor General's Foot Guards. On November 15, 1899, he married Ann Mabel Cawthra (1871-1943), the couple had two children, Agar Rodney (1901-1954) and Anthony Patrick Cawthra (1906-2002).

With the outbreak of the Boer War, Adamson was sent to Halifax as part of the 3rd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry in order to replace the British garrison. Bored of garrison duty, Adamson would make use of his social connections to land him a command in charge of 50 men going to join The Lord Strathcona's Horse as casualty replacements arriving in June 1900. Adamson and the men under him would see action at Wolve Spruit on July 5, 1900. At Adamson's recommendation, Sergeant Arthur Richardson would receive a Victoria Cross for saving a wounded comrade under fire, the first soldier in a Canadian unit to receive a Victoria Cross.

During his service, Lieutenant Adamson would prove himself as a capable leader and receive a mention in despatches. Adamson would, unfortunately, fall sick and be sent back to England, being declared unfit for service and invalided back to Canada in March 1901. One year later, in March 1902, once again making use of his connections, Adamson was able to become a Captain in the 6th Canadian Mounted Rifles, to be sent overseas as part of the fourth Canadian contingent of volunteers. The fourth contingent only arrived in South Africa after the war had ended and was sent back home shortly afterwards. Adamson would receive the Queen's South African Medal with clasps for Cape Colony and Belfast.

Unable to secure a commission as an officer in the British Army, Agar and his family would return to Canada and settle down in Port Credit where Ann had a farm bequeathed to her by her father. Adamson took up a job as the nominal head of the Canadian branch (established by his wife) of the Thornton-Smith Company, a British decorating and interior design firm.

When World War One began, Adamson yet again made use of his connections to secure a commission. Despite his relatively old age of 48 and the fact that he was nearly blind in one eye due to a rugby accident, Adamson secured a commission as a Captain in the newly formed Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI). For actions at the Battle of Bellewaarde Ridge in the Ypres Salient, Adamson would receive a Distinguished Service Order. During his time in the trenches, Adamson would regularly write letters to his wife, providing an excellent picture of life in the trenches. On October 31, 1916, Adamson would be promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed Commanding Officer of the PPCLI. While in command of the Regiment, the Princess Pats would fight in a number of notable engagements including Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele.

In 1918, Adamson, now 52 years old, turned over command of the regiment and resigned in order to return to England in order to attend to his sick wife, who had been in Belgium aiding refugees. Post-traumatic stress disorder took its toll on Adamson and his marriage. Although there was no formal divorce, Agar and Ann separated, hardly seeing each other in the years following the war. Agar returned to Canada in 1919 and built a mansion on their Lakeview property (now a public park), which still stands to this day. Adamson would divide most of his time between visiting friends in Ottawa and gambling in England.

In October of 1929, Adamson and a friend ventured out in an experimental aircraft designed by the latter; during the flight, the aircraft crashed into the Irish Sea. While Adamson survived, he fell ill due to having been in the water for two hours before being rescued and died of pneumonia three weeks later on November 21, 1929. Adamson would be cremated and his ashes brought back to Canada, where following a procession down the street and a military funeral, he was buried in the family crypt in Trinity Anglican Church, Port Credit.

Neil Auld

Neil McVicar Auld was born on July 13, 1878, to Hugh Milne Auld and Isabelle McVicar in Govan, Scotland. He was the third oldest out of seven children. Auld would spend 6 years in the British Army with the 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders. Two of those years would be spent in South Africa, part of which he would spend brigaded with Canadian troops. After the war, Auld would receive the Queen's South African Medal and clasps for Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, 1901, and 1902.

In 1904, Auld came to Canada aboard the SS Mongolian, arriving in Halifax on June 1. On July 21, 1905, Neil Auld married Margaret Letitia Hamilton (1880-1972) in York, Ontario. The couple had six children, George Alexander (1906-1927), Lillas E. (1909-?), James Hamilton (1912-1942), Douglas (1914-?) Margaret Isabel (1917-?), and Winifred (1920-?). At the beginning of the First World War, the Auld family was living in Muskoka. Neil enlisted in the 122nd Battalion, CEF, on January 3rd, 1916 and arrived in France on June 28, 1917. He was discharged on February 17, 1919, with the rank of Sergeant.

At the time of the Second World War, Neil was living in York. He and James were both carpenters while Douglas was a butcher. James would go missing on December 25, 1942, while

transporting a Catalina Flying Boat overseas with RAF Ferry Command. Douglas served with the 8th Field Squadron of the Royal Canadian Engineers By 1949, Neil, who had since retired, and Margaret had moved to Clarkson. Douglas and his wife also lived nearby, operating a butcher shop in Clarkson (the shop was inherited by his son Bill, and finally closed in 2015). Neil Auld passed away on July 24, 1956. He is buried in Springcreek Cemetery.

Albert Bent

Albert Ernest Bent was born on Sept 15, 1874, in Leytonstone, England to John Phillip Bent (1841-1924) and Mary Rebecca Ellis, (1844-1933) as the fourth oldest of eight siblings. He was baptised into the Church of England on October 7. He spent 12 years in the British military which included service in South Africa and India.

On December 26, 1902. Albert Bent married Emily Purnell (1876-1966) in St. Mary's Church in Stapleford Tawney, Essex. Two children, Ernest Reginald (1903-1991) and Harry Frederick (1905-1977) would be born in West Ham, Essex with another, Leslie Philips (1912-1996) born in Toronto.

When the First World War began, the Bent family was living in Toronto with Albert working as a motorman for the Toronto Street Railway. Albert enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and became a gunner in the 8th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery on August 7, 1915. He left Canada from St. John on February 5, 1916, aboard the SS Metagama disembarking in Plymouth on the 14th. On May 18, Albert Bent was given the rank of bombardier (corporal). He would arrive in France on July 14, 1916, in the City of Havre. Albert would fight at the Somme, Vimy Ridge, and Passchendaele. Albert would be discharged on May 9, 1918, on account of physical unfitness from constant pain in his back and limbs.

Sometime after the war, the Bent Family would move to 1023 Haig Blvd in Lakeview. Albert was a successful merchant who sold coal and ice, he would eventually retire sometime between 1935 and 1940, though according to 1945 voting records, he had come out of retirement to work as a guard, by this time Leslie had joined the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve.

Albert Bent would pass away on March 1, 1957, in Sunnybrook Hospital at the age of 83. He is buried in Springcreek Cemetery.

Walter Blockely

Walter Bourne Blockely was born on May 13, 1881 in Hendon, Middlesex, England to Theodore William Blockely (1836-1886) and Eveline Littlewood (1849-1913) as the seventh of eight children.

Walter served in South Africa as a private in the 93rd Company, 23rd Battalion (Sharpshooters) of the Imperial Yeomanry. He reportedly saw heavy fighting in the Ladysmith and Vaal River areas. Blockely would receive the Queen's South Africa Medal with Clasps for Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, South Africa 1901, and South Africa 1902.

After the war, Blockely became an engineer. He was initiated into the Colindale Masonic Lodge in Stanmore, England on September 21, 1906. Blockely immigrated to Canada in 1908. At the time of the 1911 census, Blockely was living in Trois-Rivières, Quebec.

On August 28, 1913, Walter Blockely married Ella Miriam Cooper (1892-1978) in Drummondville Quebec. The couple had three children, Hector Theodore Walter Caruso

(1914-?), who would later serve as an officer in the RAF Reserve during the Second World War, Elizabeth Blockely (born and died in 1919), and Cecillia Mary Blanch (1926-2006). At the time of the 1921 census, Walter, Ella, and Theodore were living in Niagara Falls.

In 1935, Walter and Ella were living at 664 Davenport Road in Toronto. By 1949, the two had moved to Clarkson. Voting records show that by 1953, Walter had retired from his job as an electrical engineer. By 1963, Walter was living in the Peel Manor long-term care home in Brampton. Ella was still living in Clarkson, at 1931 Lakeshore Road. It is unknown what happened to Walter Blockely after this date. However, his wife's November 1978 obituary confirms that he had died previously.

James Brader

James William Brader was born to Edward Brader and Beley Would around 1880 in Langworth, Lincolnshire, England. At the time of the 1891 English census, he was living with his uncle, aunt, and older cousin in the village of Hemingby.

Later, Brader would join the 2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. During the Boer War. Brader would find himself attached to Canadian units and later as a signaller, to the South African Constabulary under the command of Robert Baden-Powell (the founder of the Scouting movement). He would also serve as a train dispatcher on the Central South African Railroad. In total, he would spend 5 years in the northern Transvaal area. For his services, Brader would receive the Queen's South African Medal with clasps for Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, South Africa 1901, and South Africa 1902. According to a 1949 news article written by Port Credit resident and fellow Boer War veteran James Ramage, Brader told "interesting tales of the Boer War."

In August 1905, 24-year-old James Brader would make a trip to Canada aboard the SS Tunisian, departing from Liverpool on the 10th and arriving in Montreal on the 18th. On April 24, 1907, Brader would marry Ina Calder Banks (1876-1942) in York, Ontario. It is unknown if they had any children. Ina would pass away on May 8, 1942, due to cervical cancer. Her death certificate lists their place of residence at the time as "Victoria Avenue, Port Credit." Ina would be buried in St. John's Norway Cemetery in Toronto.

The 1945 voting records list his residence as in Lorne Park and his occupation as retired. 1949 voting records show that he was still living in Lorne Park. By this time Brader had apparently remarried to Jessie Hellen Dunbar (1879-1970) whose husband, James McDowell had passed away in 1943. On September 5, 1952, James and Jesse Brader, aged 71 and 72 respectively, arrived in Liverpool aboard the RMS Empress of France.

Jessie Brader is buried with John McDowell in Prospect Cemetery, located in Toronto. James Brader's death and burial place are unknown.

Harry Cawthra-Elliot CB CMG.

Harry Macintire Elliot was born on December 3rd, 1867 in Bangalore, India to Major-General Henry Rivers Elliot and Carmina Macintire. At some point, he would marry Blanche A. Wickers of Halifax, with whom he had one son, William and two daughters. Blanche would pass away sometime before 1920.

Harry Elliot was commissioned into the Royal Artillery as a 2nd Lieutenant on February 17, 1888. He would serve as part of the Halifax Garrison from 1890 to 1896. Then a Captain,

Macintire would serve in South Africa, receiving the Queen's South African Medal. He would also receive the China War Medal 1900 for service in the Boxer Rebellion.

In 1911, Elliot would once again be posted to Canada. In 1915, in the midst of the First World War, Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Elliot would be made commandant of Camp Sewell, a training site in Manitoba. In 1916, He would be promoted to Major-General and appointed Master-General of Ordnance of the Canadian Militia, a position he would hold until 1920. He would retire from the Militia in 1921.

Harry Elliot would be made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1918 and a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1921. Harry Elliot would also serve as the first Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police from 1921-1922. He would also serve as the vice-president of the Toronto Humane Society.

On June 29, 1921, Harry Elliot married Grace Millicent Kennaway Cawthra (1878-1974). As part of the marriage, Elliot was required to take the Cawthra surname, becoming Harry Cawthra-Elliot. In 1926, the couple would build a home in Mississauga. On July 14, 1947, the home would be struck by lightning and set on fire. Having run outside in the cold to let the fire brigade into the estate, the 80-year-old Harry would develop pneumonia. Never fully recovering, he would pass away on June 27, 1949. Harry Macintire Cawthra-Elliot and his wife were buried in St. John's Dixie Cemetery in Mississauga.

James Crozier

James Alexander Crozier was born on May 28, 1875, to Hugh Crozier (1840-1928), a Presbyterian minister and his wife, Lucinda Tuner Gibson (1844-1927) in Holstein, Grey County, Ontario. He had two siblings, Hugh Gibson (1873-?) and Jean (1878-1958).

Prior to the Boer War, Crozier had graduated from Queen's University with a degree in the arts. When he enlisted on February 23, 1900, Crozier reported his occupation as a fourth-year medical student. Crozier would be sent overseas as part of the third detachment of Canadians, the Strathcona's Horse. For his services, he would receive the Queen's South African Medal with clasps for Belfast, Orange Free State, Natal, and South Africa 1901.

After the war ended, he returned home and completed his studies at McGill University. He would practise medicine in Port Arthur (modern-day Thunder Bay). On March 5, 1915, Crozier was appointed as a Captain in the Canadian Army Medical Corps (CAMC) and was sent overseas to No. 3 Canadian Field Ambulance in France shortly afterwards. On May 10th, he was appointed medical officer of the 8th Battalion, CEF. He would be transferred to England on December 31st and granted leave to Canada from January 7 to June 4, 1916.

On March 15, 1916, Crozier married Mabel Catherine Pringel (1895-1965). He resigned his commission as an officer on April 18, 1916. The couple had two children, Catherine Helen Crozier (1917-1983) and Lucinda (1931-1988). James Crozier would return to the CAMC on February 1, 1919, but with the end of the war, he would be demobilised on April 15th.

After the war, Crozier would continue to practise medicine in Port Arthur. He continued service in the post-war military, rising to become a Lieutenant-Colonel and commanding officer of The Lake Superior Regiment. Eventually, he would leave the regiment and in 1942, Crozier and his family moved to Port Credit. He would pass away on December 31, 1950, in his home. James Alexander Crozier and the rest of the Crozier family are all buried in Springcreek Cemetery (Helen and Lucinda under the surnames Fauquier and Hutton, respectively).

George Cumming

George Allan Cumming was born on March 22, 1875, to Alexander Cumming (1847-1929) and Jane Taylor (1846-1876) in Kirkwall, Ontario. He had two older brothers, a younger sister, and seven younger half-siblings. In 1881, the family was living in Wentworth County, Ontario. By 1891, the family had moved to Rossgburn, Manitoba.

A blacksmith by trade, George Cumming was living in Meadowvale when he enlisted to go overseas as an artificer attached to the Canadian Mounted Rifles. He served from February 1900 to March 1901 and received the Queen's South Africa Medal.

George Cumming would marry Mary Ann Crosbie in 1901. They had three children, Margaret Jane (1902-1986), Florence May (1904-?), and Ivy (1906-?). By 1908, the family had apparently moved to Mount Pleasant, Ontario. On March 30, 1924, George Cumming would pass away from appendicitis. He was buried in Prospect Cemetery in Toronto.

Jesse Foreman

Jesse Edmund Foreman was born on January 7, 1880, in Sydenham, Kent, England to George and Jane Foreman. He had four older siblings, William, George, Minnie, and Frederick.

Jesse Foreman served for several years in the British Army in the 2nd Battalion, Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). He served for two years in South Africa as a Lance Corporal, receiving the Queen's South African Medal with clasps for Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Tugela Heights, Relief of Ladysmith, and Laing's Nek.

In July 1906, Foreman married Florence Partlett (1882-1967). Their first son, Edmund George (1906-1999) would be born on October 12 of that same year. In 1912, the family immigrated to Canada. On August 26, 1913, Jesse and Florence's second son, Cecil Stanley (1913-2006) would be born in York.

For 33 years, Jesse was an employee of the St. Lawrence Starch Co. in Port Credit. Jesse Foreman would eventually rise to the position of foreman of the glucose and syrup departments. He was a member of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Port Credit and an honorary life member of the Port Credit Orange Lodge.

He passed away on February 3, 1956, in his home at 28 Helene Street. Foreman's funeral was held at the Skinner and Middlebrook Chapel on February 6. He now lies in Springcreek Cemetery alongside his wife. Edmund and his wife Adeline can also be found within Springcreek.

Charles Glen

Charles "Charlie" Ecclestone Glen was born on January 18th, 1884 to Alexander Glen (1853-1915), a police constable, and Eleanor Allen (1860-1925) in Wreckenton, Durham, England. He was the fourth oldest out of eight children. Around the time of the 1891 census, he was working as a Blacksmith's striker.

At the time of the Boer declaration of war, Charlie Glen had reportedly been in the country in order to quell a native uprising and was quite familiar with the country and the people. He spent 10 months in the 138th Company, 30th Battalion, Imperial Yeomanry, receiving the Queen's South African Medal with clasps for Cape Colony and South Africa 1902. He would also spend 1 ½ years in the 5th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry.

In 1902, Charlie immigrated to Canada. On August 17, 1904, Glen married Eva Almira Shaver (1884-1946). The couple had 4 children, Charles Ecclestone Jr. (1905-?), Albert Alexander (1907-?), John William (1909-?), and Frederick James (1910-1959).

At the time of the First World War, Charlie was living in Clarkson as a farmer. Interestingly, according to his attestation papers, Eva was listed as living in Humber Bay. Charlie enlisted into the 134th (48th Highlanders) Battalion CEF on January 17th, 1916. At some point, Glen would be transferred to the 19th Battalion CEF. With the demobilisation of the CEF, Glen would be discharged on July 4, 1919 with the rank of Sergeant. On the 11th, Glen would receive a mention in despatches from Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, for services in the Headquarters of the 2nd Canadian Division.

By 1917, the Glen family had apparently moved to Lorne Park. The family owned a farm where they worked. By the start of the Second World War, Charlie Glen had retired. Following in their father's footsteps, Charlie Glen's sons are said to have served in the war. Frederick is known to have served in the Royal Canadian Engineers. As of 1949, Charlie Glen was said to be living on Queen Victoria Avenue. It is unknown what happened to Charlie Glen after that point. After Eva passed away in 1946, she was apparently buried in Springcreek Cemetary, but it is unknown if Charlie is also there. Frederick is also buried in Springcreek.

Harry Hague

Harry Hague was born in 1861 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England to George Hague (1821-1868) and Maria Yates (1823-1897) as the ninth of ten siblings. He married Sarah Day (1863-1886) on January 15, 1882. On July 25, Hague was arrested and spent ten days in HMP Wakefield for assaulting his wife. That same year, the couple had a child, George, but he died before the year's end. After Sarah's death, Hague married Minnie Charlesworth (1862-1936). The couple reportedly had 13 children, although 7 did not seem to live an entire year.

Hague reportedly served in South Africa with the British Army before immigrating to Canada in 1908. At the time of the First World War, Hague volunteered to serve, but was too old to deploy overseas and thus was said to have seen service on the homefront. One son, Joseph Hague was killed in 1916 while serving at Ypres with the British Machine Gun Corps. By 1921, Hague had moved to Port Credit where he worked as a labourer, employed by the Lorne Park Estates. Another son, Harry, also a British WW1 veteran died in 1934 after he was injured while working on the Middle Road (now QEW) Credit River Bridge. On March 2, 1939, Hague passed away from blood poisoning and pneumonia and was given a funeral conducted by the Canadian Legion.

Samuel Hare

Samuel J. Hare was born on March 15, 1881 in Poyntzpass, County Armagh in modern-day Northern Ireland to George Hare (1813-1893), a widower, and Sarah Dickson (1844-1933). He had two siblings, Hugh (1879-1942) and Joseph (1883-1899), and eight half-siblings.

Hare spent around 13 years in the British Army with the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons. He would fight in South Africa, receiving the Queen's South African Medal with clasps for Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, South Africa 1901, and South Africa 1902.

Hare would come to Lakeview in 1917, living at 107 Haig Boulevard. He would primarily work as a labourer, though during the Second World War, he would take up the position of a guard. Hare died on November 30, 1948 in St. Joseph's Hospital after he was hit by a car. Following a service in the Skinner Middlebrook Funeral Chapel arranged by the Lakeview Army and Navy Veterans' Association, Samuel Hare was buried in Springcreek Cemetery.

François-Louis Lessard CB

François-Louis Lessard was born in Quebec City to Louis Napoleon Lessard (1834-1901) and Jane Felicity McKutcheon (1833-1863) on December 9, 1860. On April 25, 1882, François-Louis Lessard would marry Marie Florence Lee (1857-1924). The couple would have three children, Florence Georgina (1885-1913), Eva (1857-?), and Blanche Dorothy (1889-1939).

He would first see military service with the militia as a Private in the Queen's Own Canadian Hussars, which he joined in 1878. In 1881, He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Quebec Garrison Artillery in 1880 before transferring to the 65th Regiment "Mount Royal Rifles" (now Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal) in 1884.

On the 11th of June that same year, Lessard would transfer to the Permanent Force as part of the Cavalry School Corps (later renamed the Royal Canadian Dragoons). In this unit, Lessard would see service in the North-West Rebellion, albeit relegated to guarding supply lines, never actually seeing combat. Having risen through the ranks, he was made Inspector-General of Cavalry in 1896 and a Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer of The Royal Canadian Dragoons in 1899.

When the Second Boer War began, Lessard would travel overseas with the first Canadian contingent. Being a cavalry officer, he would not serve with them, instead serving as a staff officer for General John French (later Field Marshall French, 1st Earl of Ypres). In this role, Lessard would participate in the lifting of the siege of Kimberly on February 15, 1900. When the second Canadian contingent arrived in March 1900, Lessard would be given command of the 1st Battalion, Canadian Mounted Rifles. Due to the number of Dragoons, including Lessard who made up the battalion, the battalion would be renamed The Royal Canadian Dragoons in August.

One of the most notable engagements the Royal Canadian Dragoons would fight in was the Battle of Leliefontein. On November 7, 1900, a 100-strong rearguard composed of men from the Dragoons and the Canadian Field Artillery under the command of Lessard was covering a British withdrawal from the Komati River when they were attacked by a force of Boers. Though outnumbered, the Canadians succeeded in driving off the Boer forces. For their valour, three Dragoons would receive the Victoria Cross, the most awarded to Canadians in a single day.

"I must in bringing them forward emphasize the fact that the behaviour of the whole Royal Canadian rear guard under Lieutenant-Colonel Lessard was so fine that it makes it most difficult to single out for special distinction. There is no doubt that men sacrificed themselves in the most gallant way to save the guns which they succeeded in doing."

- Major General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, commander of the withdrawing British forces.

As the campaign progressed, Lessard would gain a reputation for excellent leadership and aggressiveness in combat. For his services in South Africa, Lessard would be made a

Companion of the Order of the Bath. He would receive the Queen's South African Medal with clasps for Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Belfast, Relief of Kimberley, and Orange Free State.

After the war, Lessard resumed his post as Inspector General. He would take up a position lecturing and teaching courses at the Canadian Military Institute in Toronto. In 1907, Lessard was promoted to Colonel and made Adjutant-General of Militia. In 1911, he was promoted to Lieutenant-General and Major-General in 1912. That same year, a conflict with the Minister of Militia and Defence, Sam Hughes (who wasn't particularly fond of Canada's Permanent Force, the full-time professional fighting force), saw Lessard removed the Adjutant-General position and placed in command of Military District No. 2 (Toronto and Central Ontario).

With the outbreak of the First World War, Lessard was expected by many to lead the 1st Canadian Division overseas, but his conflict with Sam Hughes saw Lessard made Inspector-General of Militia for Eastern Canada, a position in which he and Hughes would butt heads over what Lessard saw as problems in Hughes' training methods. Lessard would also recommend a number of improvements, however they would not be acted upon until Hughes was replaced in 1916. Prior to the introduction of conscription, Lessard would tour Quebec campaigning for more recruits. In March of 1918, following the outbreak of anti-conscription riots, Lessard would be deployed to Quebec to maintain order. On April 1, after being fired upon by rioters, Lessard ordered his men to open fire, resulting in the deaths of 5 people and dozens of injuries.

Lessard retired in 1919 and moved to Meadowvale, seemingly leaving his family behind in Quebec. Living on the Gooderham Estate, Lessard raised horses and judged at horse shows. He would also serve as a director of the CNE. Shortly after he arrived in Meadowvale, Lessard would be appointed Honorary-Colonel of the local militia regiment, The Peel and Dufferin Regiment. On July 1st, 1926, he would unveil the Streetsville Cenotaph which he had helped raise funds for its construction. Lessard would pass away from stomach cancer on August 7, 1927. He is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Toronto.

William Lightfoot

William Lightfoot was born on September 10, 1883, in Clarkson. His father was James Lightfoot (1851-1938) and his mother was Elizabeth Davidson (1859-1927) who both immigrated to Canada from Cumberland County, England in 1881 with their two children, Margaret (1876-1943) and Thomas (1877-1905). William would also have three younger siblings, Cybella (1887-1990), George (1890-1940), and Edith (1897-1916). The family were Methodists.

In 1902, William Lightfoot enlisted with the 6th Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles. The 6th CMR was part of the fourth contingent of Canadians to go overseas but only arrived after the war had ended.

A fruit grower in Clarkson, he married Mabel Ada Lawrence (1884-1977) on October 25, 1912. They had four children, Marguerite Helena Lawrence (1914-1998), Marion Doreen (1917-2004), W.B. (1920-?), and James Lawrence (January - March 1926).

William would die on June 16, 1964. He is buried in Springcreek Cemetery with Mabel and James. Marguerite can be found buried with her husband Edward Louis Abbs and two infant children. William's parents and all of his siblings also lie in Springcreek.

James Ramage

James Hugh Ramage was born on June 2nd, 1874 in Torphichen, Scotland to John Ramage (1850-1933) and Grace Wyllie (1850-1906). He had three younger siblings, Maggie, Jessie, and John.

The Ramage family had a storied military background. An early ancestor had served as a standard bearer for Bonnie Prince Charlie. Another ancestor, Sergeant Henry Ramage received the Victoria Cross during the Crimean War. One of James' earliest memories was of his father "in the uniform of the Royal Scots with the chinstrap of his shako in his bushy beard." Ramage served for some time in the Black Watch Regiment of the British Army under the command of Sir Andrew Wauchope.

In 1896, he came to Canada, settling down in Port Credit and in 1898, he joined the local militia regiment, the 36th Peel Battalion of Infantry, eventually becoming the Regimental Sergeant Major. While with the militia, Ramage trained at the Stanley Barracks in Toronto, where he was certified in the operation of the Maxim machine gun.

When Canada entered the Boer War and sent its first detachment of volunteers, the 2nd (Special Service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, Sergeant James Ramage was among them as a member of C-Company, composed of men from Toronto and the surrounding area. He would be placed in charge of section three, primarily made up of men from the rural militia units. The contingent would leave Quebec City on October 30th, 1899 on the SS Sardinian for Cape Town, South Africa, disembarking on November 30th.

Ramage and the men of C-Company would see action alongside a small force of British and Australian troops on January 1, 1900, near the town of Douglas engaging a Boer *laager*, or wagon encampment. The Imperial forces would take 42 prisoners and succeed in capturing the entire camp.

Sgt. Ramage was also present at the Battle of Paardeberg (18-27 February 1900), Canada's first major battle of the war. The opening assault by Imperial forces upon entrenched Boer positions would see about 1,100 casualties including 280 dead. Among Canadians, casualties would be 18 killed and 60 wounded. It would be the single bloodiest day of the war. Sgt. Ramage would receive a mention by 2 RCRI's Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel William Otter in his report to the Chief of Staff Officer of Militia, Canada, for his role in helping with the retrieval of the battle's casualties.

"I must here place on record the great services rendered by the R. C. Chaplain of the Battalion, the Rev. Father O'Leary, who was present in the field all day and towards the end in the firing line, while during the night he was prominent in the search for the wounded, as well as officiating in the burial of the dead. Several of the officers accompanied these parties up to midnight while, No. 685 Q. M. Sergt. E. Reading, No. 7304 **Sergt. J. H. Ramage**, No. 7302 Sergt. H. Middleton, and No. 7253 Pte R. D. Whigham, were out all night on this duty."

On his way home to Canada, Ramage would escort Boer prisoners to the island of St. Helena, where Napoleon Bonaparte famously lived during his second exile. James Ramage would be discharged on November 5th, 1900; returning home to a hero's welcome in Port Credit the next day. For his service in South Africa, Ramage would receive the Queen's South African

Medal with four clasps: Cape Colony, Paardeberg, Drefontein, and Johannesburg; which was presented in 1901 to him by the then Duke of York, later King George V, in Toronto.

Ramage married Annie Taylor Denison (1875-1962) on June 15, 1901. They had three children, Gordon Alexander Ramage (1906-1976), Muriel Elizabeth Grace Ramage (1907-1994), and Margaretta Jean Ramage (1919-1984). Given a plot of land in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan for his services, his family moved out west. By 1933, James and Annie were living in Lorne Park, having returned in 1926, Godorn stayed behind to manage the farm and Muriel was teaching in Saskatchewan. Margaretta attended high school in Port Credit and Annie was a member of the Dixie Women's Institute. In 1949, Ramage would contribute several articles to the Port Credit Weekly titled "Fifty Years Ago" about the early weeks of the South African War.

James Ramage passed away on August 8, 1958. He is buried, along with Annie in Springcreek Cemetery. Margaretta is also buried in Springcreek, with her husband, Robert Jefferson.

Arthur Scott

Arthur George Scott was born in Carlow, Ireland on September 14, 1879. His family immigrated to the United States in 1880, and came to Port Credit around 1912. Arthur settled in Port Credit while his next of kin, his brother Walter Scott, worked as a rancher in Texas. Also listed as his next of kin was Miss M. Storie, but the relationship is unknown. Arthur was a veteran of the South African War (Boer War), where he served for three years. Arthur worked as a chauffeur and machinist and was a member of the 36th Active Peel Militia prior to enlistment. He was also a member of the Mississauga Golf Club.

He enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Valcartier, Quebec on September 22, 1914, earning the rank of Lieutenant. Like many other men from Port Credit, he served in the 4th Battalion. He was promoted to Captain prior to leaving Canada for England on October 9, 1914. On July 9, 1916, Captain Scott, then an Acting Major, led soldiers from his battalion in an attack on enemy trenches during the Battle of Mount Sorrel. The attack failed because the barbed wire protecting the trench had not been cut; Scott would be last seen close to the enemy wire. He was first reported as missing, and it was later believed that he was killed by enemy bombs. Despite repeated attempts during the following nights, Scott's body was never found. Unfortunately, after his death, it seems Army officials were unable to locate his next of kin. He is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial and on the Port Credit Cenotaph.

Resting Places of Mississauga's Boer Veterans

The following is a list of known burial locations of Mississauga residents who fought in the Boer War, and if possible, a link to their memorial on *findagrave.com*

Springcreek Cemetery - 1390 Clarkson Road N, Mississauga

Neil Auld - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/127697356/neil-mcvicar-auld>

Albert Bent - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/125454967/albert-e-bent>

James Crozier - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13687460/james-alexander-crozier>

Jesse Foreman - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/125454833/jesse-e-foreman>

William Lightfoot - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13803823/william-lightfoot>

James Ramage - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13918594/james-h-ramage>

Samuel Hare - Buried in Springcreek; no findagrave page exists.

St. John's Dixie Cemetery - 737 Dundas Street E, Mississauga

Harry Cawthra-Elliot -

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68756972/harry-m-cawthra_-_elliot

Trinity Anglican Church - 26 Stavebank Road N, Mississauga

Agar Adamson -

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/250909916/agar-stewart_allan_masterton-adamson

Prospect Cemetery - 1450 St Clair Avenue W, Toronto

George Cumming - Buried in Section 22, Lot 4745; no findagrave page exists.

Mount Hope Cemetery - 305 Erskine Avenue, Toronto

François-Louis Lessard -

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146605521/francois-louis-lessard>

No Body Found

Arthur Scott - Body was never found, remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres Belgium. He can also be found on the Port Credit Cenotaph as G. Scott MC.

Grave Unknown

Walter Blockely - His wife was buried in the Brampton Cemetery, however, his date of death and burial location is unknown.

James Brader - Date of death unknown. First wife is buried in St John's Norway Cemetery in Toronto. Second wife is buried with her previous husband.

Harry Hague - His son Harry and one of his daughters, Maria are both buried in St. John's Dixie Cemetery, but his grave is unknown.

Charlie Glen - Date of death unknown. Both his wife and Frederick Glen are buried in Springcreek.