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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### First Artillery Band Formed

By NEIL A. MATHESON

THE FOURTH REGIMENT Canadian Artillery Band (formerly Galbreath's Band) was organized in 1860 and reorganized in 1900.

I get so many old documents and publications that it is sometimes difficult to remember where each came from, but I'm almost sure that this one came from Warren and Arlene Hood, the friendly new neighbors who live just across the field from me in Southport.

The occasion was a concert by the Band, under the direction of Professor W. Harry Watts. Assisting at the concert was Miss Amy Earle, Professor H.W. Vinnicombe, Major W.A. Weeks and J.F. Stanley. Miss Vinnicombe, now Mrs. Elizabeth Davies, played the accompaniment.

The historical sketch says in brief that Robert Galbreath, assisted by some gentlemen who with himself formerly had belonged to Lobbin's Band, organized in 1860 the first military band on Prince Edward Island.

### Prince Of Wales Rifles

THE PRINCE OF Wales visited the city that year and attached the band to the Prince of Wales Rifles – this unit is not further identified – and it continued as such until 1873 when Prince Edward Island entered Confederation, when it became a civilian band again and was known under Mr. Galbreath's name.

In 1878 the band became attached to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Canadian Militia and severed that connection in 1889. It then reverted to the status of an independent band but changed that in 1900 when it was organized as the band of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Canadian Artillery.

All of the above is taken from the souvenir program booklet published at the time of the concert on Thursday, November 27, 1902.

I liked particularly the skill and artistry of the man who wrote what we newspaper people now call "copy" for the promotion. Here is one example, the reference is to the second number on the program which was

'Overture . . . Light Cavalry (Von suppe)'

The raucous note of the trumpet announces the formation of the battle line. The hills surrounding the theatre of war toss the echo from one to the other. The eyes dazzled by the flashing sword-blade and glittering accoutrement, by sun-flamed cuirass, by multi-colored uniform, by the distended nostril of the chargers who smell the battle from afar."

I like particularly that last reference. The charger was a large and powerful war horse, reading the lines you can fairly see those noble animals snorting disdain as they charge into battle.

I Like This One Also

I LIKE ONE other paragraph in the promotional buildup:

“The majestic harmonies open the mental vision, and one sees an armed host awaiting but the word to share in the arbitrament of the bloody strife. The pomp and circumstances fade, and the majestic idea of battling for the right, dying for the principle and to uphold the emblazoned traditions which the sun burns into every soldier’s brain as the folds of the standard wave in the breeze. Again the trumpets ring out their call, and each son of the flag feels his pulse throb and he mentally ejaculates “Light cavalry, do or die.’”

That’s an example of the skill these people had in building up the coming musical attraction. A man, or woman, could almost be conned into attending though he or she had never heard a musical instrument played previously.

### Advertising Is Studied

A LOOK at the advertising reveals something of who was selling what in Charlottetown in 1902. G.H. Taylor on Sunnyside – the store is still in the Taylor family – was “opening new goods for the Christmas trade”. Dodd and Rogers were advertising “The Imperial Oxford, Canada’s leading range” and were selling “Radiant Shelby electric lamps at cost”. This stand is now Rogers Hardware.

John Newson was saying the Macey sectional bookcase was the best thing that ever struck the city. He called his place “Headquarters for the best furniture”.

G.F. Hutcheson was selling “watches, jewelry and ebony goods, silver brushes, etc”. F. Perkins, Sunnyside was selling “Moncton Tweeds”.

Beer and Goff were selling Quaker Marmalade; Haszard and Moore sold Gold mounted fountain pens, another firm advertised leak-proof fountain pens, apparently a leak-proof pen would be really something at that period.

Lamb’s wool soles were “the best soles made”, W. Moran proclaimed from his Sunnyside store. For the benefit of younger readers I should explain that Sunnyside was the north side of Grafton Street, between Great George and Queen. Now it is a part of Confederation Mall.

Reardon Brothers operated “The Hub” hairdressing parlor, with hair cutting, shaving, singeing and shampooing. I’m wondering if barbers still believe in singeing hair. I recall an Italian barber on Long Island, New York who was forever telling me of the benefits of his singeing technique. That’s a long time ago and a lot of hair has dropped out since then, though I still have enough to keep the top of my head fairly well covered.

Enough from this old program, I need space for some comments on last week’s column and perhaps an item I picked up this week in the Health department building.

### Was Father Kiggins

LESTER O’DONNELL, barrister at 162 Richmond phoned Friday night to tell me the Owen Kiggins to whom I had referred last week was Father Kiggins who had the Georgetown Parish when I worked with the old Patriot.

Then Mrs. Freda Morrison called with some interesting detail on Father Kiggins. I had wondered, after Lester called me, why a priest would have taken a course in

Shorthand. Mrs. Morrison explained Owen Kiggins had come out of the Charlottetown Business College and had been asked to open a course in book-keeping at St. Dunstan's College as it was known then. This is only from memory but I believe Mrs. Morrison said Mr. Kiggins had taught at St. Dunstan's for some eight years.

Later he went to Laval University and became a priest. He was in the Georgetown parish for some 33 years. He died some eight years ago.

Still on the Charlottetown Business College, Charlie Praught told me he had found bound copies of the C.B.C. Recorder in far away Kirkcaldy, Fyfehire, Scotland. They were for the years 1904-1906 and were in perfect condition. Mr. Praught was unable to learn just how the volumes got there, but they were in the possession of Roderick Banford, a brother of Mrs. Wilfred Burke, whose husband is Pipe Major Burke.

### Emma Fitzgerald Well Liked

ONE OF THE volumes said that Sam Doyle had gone to Sydney, N.S. to play hockey. He had been a graduate. Another spoke of Emma and Clara Fitzgerald attending the college. Miss Emma Fitzgerald is well loved in this news room as she handled an important chore here for some years and is admired by all of us for her kindness, among many other things. None of us ever heard her say an unkind word about anyone. Two girls who served as women's editors here tried their best to write a feature story on Emma but she modestly insisted they should not do it.

Bill Gillespie is the name of another man Charlie found in the volumes.

And here's a typewritten note he was handed by his cousin, Ray Praught. "June 29, 1879. The Bishop of Nova Scotia consecrated St. Peter's church today, preached both morning and evening."

### Soldering Iron Is Right

THAT DEFINITELY WAS a soldering iron that Terry Lamphier, Pleasant Grove brought to me last week. Byron Burns confirms that, so does Joe Curran, and also Walter O'Brien.

A rough description would say it looks something like a hatchet, with the axe, or blade part curved horizontally in a half circular shape. It was used for soldering and closing (?) cans.