



# Sabretache

THE OFFICIAL  
JOURNAL OF  
THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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September 2015

## CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS  
meeting will be held  
on

**Tuesday,  
September  
15th.  
2015**

**7:00 pm**

At the  
Petty Officers' Mess



**At the closing of the Day**—On came the Chasseurs and Grenadiers obliquely across the reeking slopes until they were nearly level with Wellington, who by now had returned to the Guards, “Stand up, Guards!” he ordered, “Make ready! Fire” The long lines of muskets crashed, three hundred Frenchmen fell at the first volley, and with waiting to fire again the Guards drove off Napoleon's ‘Immortals’ with the bayonet, while Colborne’s 52nd leaping out of the high corn attacked another column of Chasseurs in the flank. “Well done, Colborne! Go on! They won’t stand!” It was the Duke un-expectantly appearing at Colborne’s side. Lord Uxbridge had urged him in vain to take up a less exposed position. “So I will,” he replied, “when I see those fellow driven off.” Now



Colonel Colborne, commanding the 52nd Light Infantry

he was seeing it. The French regiments saw it also and a cry of incredulous horror flew along their line—*“La Garde recule!”*

The Duke sensed that his was the instant of decision. He galloped over to his tree. Reining in Copenhagen, his favourite chestnut charger, he stood with his telescope to his eye into the light of the setting sun—setting on Napoléon's empire. Then he took off his hat and waved it towards the French. In a flash the signal was understood and with thunderous cheer his Army led by the light cavalry, swooped on to the plain.

One of the last cannon-shots fired by the French that day skimmed across Copenhagen’s neck and smashed in Uxbridge’s knee. “By God! I’ve lost my leg!” “Have you, by God!” Wellington supported him until help arrived and then spurred on.

“Eighteenth! You will follow me,” shouted Sir Hussey Vivian to the Hussars. “To Hell!” they roared back. And hell it was that evening on the moonlit fields.

is a non-profit registered society  
which fosters the study of the  
military and the police, and the heritage of  
Canada, the British Empire, and the world  
as well as the preservation of military  
artifacts and records.

The CMHS meets once every calendar month  
at: Petty Officers' Mess  
HMCS Tecumseh  
1820 - 24th Street SW  
Calgary AB T2T 0G6

## Notice of Next Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday, September 15th, 2015**

**19:00 (7:00 pm)**

At the Petty Officers' Mess, HMCS Tecumseh.

Members are reminded that an offering of foodstuffs for the Legion Food Bank is considered your unofficial entrance fee to our regular scheduled meetings.

The unofficial agenda of this meeting will be:

Introduction of guests, Minutes of last meeting Correspondence, Membership report Treasurer's report, Old business / New business Break, Show & Tell  
The President, **Kevin Roberts** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meeting for an informal time of fellowship.



### The Duke of Wellington and his best charger, Copenhagen.

When not in a battle situation Copenhagen was tetchy and difficult and totally unimpressed with situation or status. His cantankerous temperament gave many a groom a bad moment and even nearly gave the Duke himself a severe injury. He had dismounted after the final battle of Waterloo and moved to the rear and patted Copenhagen on the rump in thanks for a fine day's work. The horse responded with a savage kick, just missing the General who had already just missed death many times that day.

But Copenhagen was a superb battle horse. Unflinching amidst gunfire he repeatedly exhibited great stamina and fortitude. On one occasion he carried the General Duke into a square of infantrymen under cannon fire, both remaining perfectly composed. Later the Duke said of him: There may have been many faster horses, no doubt many handsomer, but for bottom and endurance I never saw his fellow. A compliment indeed from an experienced horseman who loved mounted sports at home and had a string of eight chargers for battle.

In retirement the old horse must have become somewhat mellowed because he was regularly ridden by friends and children at the Duke's country estate of Stratfield Saye, although Lady Shelley said he was the most difficult to sit of any horse she had ever ridden. The Duchess often fed him with bread and this it was said gave him the habit of approaching every lady with the most confiding familiarity. Over the years hair had been taken from the horse and made into bracelets for the ladies.

When the great horse died in 1836, at the remarkable age of 29, he was given a funeral with full military honors. But the day was worsened for the Duke who noticed that one hoof had been removed and flew into a terrible passion about the mutilation. After his own death the guilty servant who had taken the hoof as a memento came forward to confess and presented it to the second Duke who had it made into an inkstand.

The War Museum approached the Duke about disinterring Copenhagen in order to keep his skeleton in the Museum alongside the skeleton of Napoleon's horse, Marengo. But the Duke thwarted the idea by saying he was not sure exactly where the horse had been buried. Of course, he knew precisely where Copenhagen's remains were under the turkey oak in the Ice House Paddock at his country estate at Stratfield Saye but obviously preferred to keep his loyal friend at home with him.

As a mark of respect the second Duke erected a stone marker on the grave where it remains to this day.



## Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting of the **Calgary Military Historical Society**

**Meeting held on August 18th, 2015 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh**

Meeting called to order by President Kevin R. at 7:05 PM 17 members in attendance. No Guests present.

**Minutes** of previous meeting questioned by the usual suspects. Declared no more errors or omissions than usual and moved to accept by Bruce G. and seconded by Mike C. Unanimous

**Newsletter.** Discussion of story

**Membership.** Report by the noble Brian H. Membership totals 45 members.

**Treasures Report.** Provided by our esteemed treasurer Mr. Brian H. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc. Listing of expenditures. Treasure Brian H. moves that his report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Member Bob McP.. Unanimous

**Old Business**

**Announcements-** Olds Gun show to take place at Exhibition Grounds March 27 and 28th.

**New Business-**

Mike C.—John McCloud garage sale. Donates mugs purchased there to Society and they will be sold to members at meeting for \$5 each.

Kevin R.— **Gun** show to be held at **Thorncliffe Community Centre on September 19th.**

Floyd S.-New book out by Ken Joyce “Jump Wings” History of Canadian Airborne Qualification Badges.

Kevin R.—Announces his new website will be up Sept. 14th. Members will get 10% off on books.

**[www.thecanadiansoldier.com](http://www.thecanadiansoldier.com)**

Indra— Has received 400 plus badges and wants to trade.

Kevin R.—Mentions Maurice Harvey award and discussion follows.

**Break**

**Show and Tell.**

Darrel K-parachutist bag, mug WW1 badges, U.S. Navy Seals survival hand book

Gary—Civil war reproduction holster. Talks about trip to Great Falls and discusses Lois and Clark Expedition. Book on David Thompson and discusses his mapping of Western America.

Mike C.-South African cap badges, many made by hand. Royal Fusiliers bed plate.

Bruce G- 1920 Calgary Highlander badge, 1971 Red Beret, Para Rescue

Bob McP.— 350 BC Chinese Halberd Money, Crossbow bolt, spearhead 500 BC, bronze axe head, ink block all used as currency.

James B— reports on Stuart E's health, discusses trip to Washington D.C. , Brochure on US National Emergency Call Up.

Indra— Various badges and emblems.

Allan— Hate belt with mostly British buttons.

Marjorie— Discusses book on Canadian WW! Nursing Sisters “Our Bit”

Barry E.-WW1 Christmas card CMR and original envelope. , Early Cdn. Medical Corp. Officers collar dog., Ross bayonet 1912

Martin U.—Discusses Gettysburg visit. 2800 reenactors and tells about amazing artillery shoot event.

Floyd S.— Tells about Sturgis visit

Al D.—report of unexploded armaments discovered after floods

David G.— Flashlight used by John McCloud

Kevin R.-Death penny and medals, WW1 50th Battalion, Milburn Burkholder, Bruswick helmet, 1902 Pickelhaube helmet and story

Bob McP.— discusses “Hate Belts”

Meeting Adjourned. Martin U. and seconded by Barry E

Some interesting facts about the Duke of Wellington

**Arthur Wellesley**, 1st duke of Wellington, marquess of Douro, marquess of Wellington, earl of Wellington, Viscount Wellington of Talavera and of Wellington, Baron Douro or Wellesley, (Iron Duke) May 1, 1769– September 14, 1852



**Wellington pioneered the military crew cut**— At a time of powdered wigs or pigtailed hair, Wellington kept his hair short. This was considered a sign of modish flamboyance: and was a sign of the fashionable London elite. But as for practical, earthy and plain-living gentlemen, wigs or longer, powdered hair were considered more respectable. Though he was noted for his sharp dress sense, even being nicknamed “the Beau” by his soldiers, his hairdo was a functional affair. After a while, the sense of having less hair to worry about during battle filtered down through the ranks.

**Wellington hated fighting**—Though he rarely showed emotion, Wellington cried when he read the list of dead from Waterloo and he would always avoid unnecessary bloodshed. He was upset by the sight of battle carnage and never glorified warfare, putting him in line perhaps with a more modern mindset. Though he always demanded obedience, in person Wellington was reserved, raising his voice only at officers he considered pampered. As a junior officer, he often failed to punish the men who thieved and pillaged on his watch.

**Wellington has nothing to do with Beef Wellington**—Some think this classic British dish emerged from Wellington’s fondness for a beef fillet covered in foie gras pâté and mushrooms and cooked in pastry (the ham and mustard must have come in later). Some believe it was an American or Australian dish. There is no evidence of the dish being eaten during either the Duke’s lifetime or the rest of the 19th century.

**Wellington definitely did have something to do with Wellington Boots**—These were named after the multipurpose custom footwear Wellington wore during his campaigns. Adapted from the standard-issue leather Hessian boot, they had a low heel and were lined with calfskin to ease the strain after a long day of battle, and could be translated into a fashionable evening setting. Beau Brummell, the infamous dandy mentioned above, also contributed to their popularisation, wearing his own version of the Hessian boot in drawing rooms before Wellington’s Victory at Waterloo made him a figure to emulate. In 1852, these boots started to be made from rubber rather than leather.



**Wellington has at least 90 English pubs named after him**—If you are an Iron Duke enthusiast, you can drink in 53 pubs called “the Duke of Wellington”, as well as 37 that go by an unadorned "Wellington". And that’s just in England. The Duke of Wellington is the oldest licenced pub in Melbourne. And then of course there are the countless pubs called simply The Duke. Just don't feel the need to get a pint in each one.

**Wellington wasn’t always popular back home**—Though respected, the Duke notoriously made an unsuccessful Prime Minister in later life. He hated attention and was embarrassed by public cheers; his plainness of speech was often mistaken for rudeness and he never addressed his troops en masse, thinking this “the stuff of players”. But then even while he was defeating Napoleon’s generals one after the other during his Portuguese and Spanish campaigns, the British government were sceptical of his chances, refusing to send him reinforcements or supplies, and at one point calling him home to be court-martialled. The future George IV, then Prince Regent, had more admiration for Napoleon. But this led Wellington to be a more resourceful soldier and leader. In contrast, Napoleon was always spoilt for loyalty, troops and resources and often squandered the lot.

**Wellington was Irish**—Although Wellington is remembered as a British military hero, and was honoured with land and titles in England during his life, Arthur Wellesley (1769-1852) was actually born in Dublin. However, he never thought of himself as Irish and claimed, perhaps less than tactfully, that "because a man is born in a stable it does not make him a horse".