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THE OFFICIAL
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THE CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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February 2018

Frederick Augustus Bagley was born on September 22, 1858 in St. Lucia, British West Indies. He was the son of Robert Bagley – a retired sergeant of Her Majesty’s Royal Artillery and in 1874 was residing in Toronto Canada.

Robert Bagley was an old friend of Commissioner George French as they both had served in the Imperial Army together. In 1874, Commissioner French received approval to recruit an additional 150 new members to the newly formed North-West Mounted Police. At this time, Fred Bagley was a Trumpeter in “A” Battery Troop at the Royal School of Gunnery at Kingston and was very eager to join this new mounted unit. Despite the fact that the age for recruits was a minimum of 21 years of age, his father was able to convince Commissioner French to accept young Fred Bagley at the age of only 15.

At the age of 15 years of age he was issued the regimental number of 247. As such, he was deemed to be a member of the ‘*Original 300.*’

Bagley endured the hardships of the March West finding it a little less romantic than his expectations. *“I imagined that life in the NWMP would be one grand round of riding wild mustangs (I was always an expert horseman), chasing whisky traders and horse thieves, potting hostile savages, and hobnobbing with haughty Indian Princes and lovely unsophisticated Princesses. Alas!”*

A few years of service in the Force sufficed to dissipate much of this glamour. Yet, Bagley made the Force his life, and gradually worked his way up the ranks to Sergeant-Major. He remained in the Force for the next twenty-five years. While in the Force, Fred was involved in many historical milestones:

1874 – participated in the famous March West; 1879 – Guarded “Swift Running” prior to being the first person to be hung by the NWMP; 1885 – participated during the Northwest Rebellion; 1887 – established the first Force band at “Depot” barracks in Regina; and 1897 – NWMP Contingent that went to London for the Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations. On April 30, 1899, Fred retired from the Force at the rank of Sergeant Major.

Upon retirement at 40 years of age, Bagley moved to Calgary where he worked at the Calgary Land Titles office. During the South African War he served as a captain with the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles and as a cavalry instructor with the Strathcona’s Horse squadron. Bagley helped to recruit the 82nd Battalion in the First World War, later moving to the 192nd Battalion as second in command.



Bagley left an incredible musical legacy. He started police and civilian bands in many of the places he served and was especially well known in Calgary as a member, founder or conductor of the NWMP Band, Calgary Firemen’s Band, Calgary Elks Band and Calgary Citizens’ Band. The NWMP Band prided itself on being able to play both on foot and on horseback!

In 1901, he joined the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles for the Boer War and rose to the military rank of Major.

With the outbreak of war in 1914, Fred joined the 82nd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was commissioned as a Captain to serve as their quartermaster. He would later be transferred to the 92nd Battalion and 1915 was promoted to second in command of the Battalion.

After World War I, Fred lived in Calgary until 1924. While in Calgary, he organized the first Canadian rifle team to compete in the Empire Shooting competition. In addition, he also founded the Calgary Elks band.

CMHS Meeting

The next CMHS meeting will be held on

**Tuesday,
February 20th
2018**

7:00 pm

At the
Petty Officers’
Mess

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The
CALGARY MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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, February 20th, 2018
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 re-
port Treasurer's report, Old business / New business Break, Show & Tell
The President, **Allan Ross** would like to invite everyone to remain after the meet-
ing for an informal time of fellowship.

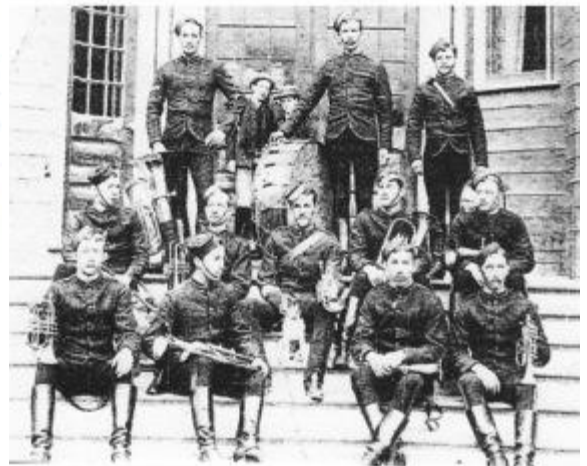
In 1885 Sgt. Fred Bagley of the
NWMP organized a group of musi-
cian at Battleford, Saskatchewan.
Sergeant Fred Bagley in the fore-
ground was a keen amateur musi-
cian and was responsible for form-
ing the NWMP band. It played at
social functions as well as on pa-
rade. He carries a sword and wears
a pouch belt possibly with a binoc-
ulars case on his back or a pouch
with sheet music. They are at Fort
Battleford and wearing winter head-
gear and white gauntlets.



1897 - NWMP Contingent at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in London England (Source of
Photograph - "The Pictorial History of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police" by S.W. Horrall.

NWMP Contingent. Second from the left is
Sergeant Fred Bagley.
By the end of April 1897, twenty-three members
were selected. Fred Bagley was one of these mem-
bers. The chosen members were all: young, trim,
handsome, 5'10" to 6'0" in height, average waist of
35 inches, average chest of 39 inches and most
sported long waxed mustaches which were consid-
ered dashing at the time

1888- Banff, Alberta NWMP Band under the direction of
S/Sgt Fred Bagley. (Centre of photo) The Band preformed
many times at the newly opened Banff Springs Hotel and
was a popular attraction for visiting tourist.



Minutes of last meeting / Calgary Military Historical Society

Meeting held on January 16, 2018 at the Petty Officer's Mess, HMCS Tecumseh

1. Meeting called to order By Allan Ross at 7:10 PM. 27 members in attendance.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting. Discussed no correction. Member Barry E. moves that the Previous Meeting Minutes be accepted. Seconded by Bob M. Approved.

3. Newsletter. Spelling correction "Morieul Wood".

4. Treasures Report.

Report by Floyd S. Lists of monies collected from book auctions, donations etc. Listing of expenditures. Floyd reports, with last month expenses, a slight increase over Nov/Dec. balances. Member Kevin R. moves that the Treasures report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Cathy C. Approved.

5. Membership Report.

Report by Floyd S. Total 40 members (2 Life, 2 Hon, 36 Regular). Member Susan E. moves that the Membership report be accepted as reported. Seconded by Dave S. Approved.

6. Correspondence:

- MCC of C 2017 Summer & Fall Journals filed.

7. Announcements:

- Holiday Soiree Jan. 21 at Glenmore Inn, \$18.95 buffet, Cocktails at 6:30 pm, Society will Provide table wine.
- Maurice Harvey Award 2017 recipient is David Gale.
- 2nd Annual Calgary Militaria Show to be held at Hillhurst Sunnyside on June 16, 2018. Book tables contact Martin U.

8. Old Business.

- Holiday Soiree Jan. 21 at Glenmore Inn, \$18.95 buffet, Cocktails at 6:30 pm, Society will Provide table wine.

9. New Business:

- President Allan R. Reviews Show and Tell protocols.
- Member Cathy C. questions why the CMHS has no advertising or Display presence at shows.
- Member Barry E. tables motion for the CMHS to purchase one table at the AACCA Easter Gun Show Mar. 30/31, 2018, Seconded by Cathy C., Vote with motion passed.
- David G. tables motion for the CMHS to purchase one table at the 2nd Annual Calgary Militaria Show Jun. 16, 2018. Seconded by Floyd S., Vote with motion passed.

BREAK

10. Ticket book auction: - Conducted by David G.

11. Show and Tell:

Alan R. - Cap & Collar badges Manitoba 14 Can Res. Batt., Tibet medal bronze class to Coolie Jaihaj Simboo, Supply & Transport Corp.

Martin U. - Discusses Capt. Jon Swanson & SSgt Hanson, KIA in a Cambodia action he took part in. Updated during Nov. 11, 2017 50th Anniversary Event in Kauai on their status from MIA to Jon's MOH to their burial together at Arlington, Photos and in country 1/9 Cavalry pocket patch he received in a trade of unit patches with Jon.

Al D. - Navy Memorial Book.

David G. - Medal Group Trio - Boer War with East Kent Reg. & WW1 to Pvt. E. Black 29th Can Infantry Group.

David S. - Chateauguay OFF Cap badge, Lar Germany Base pins, USAF Space Operations Badge

Mike C. - SA Constabulary Helmet and Peak Cap badges, Great uncle George Thomas Clare's WW1 Memorial Plaque.

Bob M. - Selection of medals including a Russo-Finnish War and a French WW1 Victory Medal.

Dave L. - Discusses Tower of London 2014 "*Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*" Poppy Project. Show original project purchased poppy.

Alan M. - Discusses Panama Canal with images from his recent Cruise trip.

Garrett L. - 1916 CEF ammo pouch.

Brad M. - Frankfort Fire Dept. 1894-1902 helmet, Frankfort flea market pickup.

12. Adjournment: **President Allan R.** calls for motion to adjourn. Member Martin U. moves to adjourn. Seconded by Brad M. Approved.

Meeting Adjourned. 20:32



In 1905 now a member of the military, he started a regimental band with "G" Squadron of the CMR in Calgary. Later that band was transferred to the 15th Light Horse. In 1907 the band was sent to perform at the Irish International Exhibition in Dublin. The band played every afternoon and evening in Dublin before going to England here it performed in Manchester and in Liverpool.



Fred Bagley ..The Horse Thief.

This is the story of reportedly happened on the long march west.

Fred Bagley is noted in his very early days as being a bit of a horse thief. Fred was looking for a better horse that he was issued with. He spotted the mount that he wanted on the march.

Noticing a member of another troop "*suffering from a too close and frequent indulgence in the cup that both cheers and inebriates*", Bagley loaned the man 50 cents to go get another "*cup*", while he held the man's horse. When the man left to get his "*cup*", Bagley "*stole*" the horse, it was a traditional buckskin, which Bagley had his eye on. He rode the horse through the march west. The horse lived for 32 years and died in 1898, and was known as "*Old Buck*" or the "*Bagley Pony*." The "*horse thief*" met the original owner at a reunion of NWMP members many years later. The owner accused him of being a thief, Bagley then demanded his 50 cents loan back! They then went onto have a great time over a "*cup*" or two.

