

**Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
Community Services — Research Department
May, 2016**

**Our May 1916
WW1 Volunteers**

Andrew Loft and William Edward Maracle

Local history information also appears on the MBQ Website, under
Research, and on the Kanhiote Library Website.

Kanhiote Library: 613.967.6264
MBQ Research: 613.396.3424

WW1: Honouring Those Who Volunteered in May, 1916

In May, 1916, one community member newly volunteered for the war and two were confirmed as volunteers (sometimes applications weren't fully processed in one sitting).

Ernest Russell Brant volunteered to serve in May and was profiled in an earlier article by MBQ from November, 2013, entitled "*WW1 Vets of MBQ: Those That Didn't Come Home*".

Andrew Loft and William Edward Maracle were confirmed as volunteers this month and will be profiled here.

ANDREW LOFT

Regimental Number: 868045

Andrew was the son of Lawrence & Mary (Maracle) Loft. According to his baptismal record, he was born sometime in November, 1894. His attestation paper states he was born on the 25th of November, 1894.

He volunteered on the 13th of March, 1916, in Oshawa, Ontario for the 182nd Overseas Battalion but his application was not fully approved until the 3rd of May, 1916.

From his military personnel file we learn that before the war he was a moulder. He had no previous military experience.

Andrew left Canada on the 3rd of May, 1917, and arrived in Liverpool, England on the 14th of May, 1917. He was transferred to the 3rd Canadian Reserve Battalion the next day.

He was subsequently transferred to the 208th Overseas Battalion in June, 1917, and in January, 1918, was transferred to the 2nd Reserve Battalion. In February he was transferred to the 8th Reserve Battalion and then to the 116th Battalion.

Andrew reached France on the 17th of February, 1918. He was sent to the Field on the 19th of February, 1918.

On the 1st of April, 1918, Andrew was wounded. He suffered shrapnel wounds to the left leg and left arm. He was invalided back to England. The medical report states that "pieces of shrapnel were removed" from the inside of the left

knee and an area 3 inches below the left knee. However “small pieces of shrapnel are still present beneath the skin.” The report recommended further surgery to remove the remaining shrapnel. These pieces of shrapnel were close to the surface and could be felt. He was transferred to the 2nd Central Ontario Regiment.

In May, 1918, Andrew was awarded a “Good Conduct” Badge.

On the 21st of August, 1918, Andrew had an x-ray to locate the “F.B.s” or “Foreign Bodies”. On the 29th, under anaesthetic, 3 “F.B’s removed from left leg. Two from region of the knee & one from calf. All F.B’s were superficial.”

In September, 1918, he still suffered slight disability with the left knee. That month he was transferred to the 8th Reserve Battalion. According to the reports, he made a good recovery.

In March, 1919, he was transferred to the 116th Battalion and was sent home. He was discharged on the 28th of March, 1919, in Toronto.

Before the war, Andrew Loft married Delia May Brant in Napanee on the 18th of May, 1915 [*Archives of Ontario Marriage Registration*]. They had one surviving child, Vivian.

Delia died in 1930 and later Andrew lived with or married a woman called Agnes May.

Andrew also volunteered to serve in World War 2.

Andrew died on the 4th November 1965 and was buried in the Deseronto Cemetery.

Most of the information here was obtained from his WW1 military personnel file [*LAC RG150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5710 - 43*]. This file has been digitized and can be found at <http://www.lac-bac.gc.ca>. Other information has been taken from MBQ records.

William Edward Maracle
Regimental Number: 637122

William Edward was the son of James & Rachel (Brant) Maracle. According to both the 1901 census and his attestation paper, he was born on the 19th of November, 1870.

He volunteered on the 27th of April, 1916, in Deseronto with the 155th Overseas Battalion, but his application was not fully approved until May, 1916.

From his military personnel file we learn that before the war he was a “mechanic wood turner”. He had no previous military experience.

In August, 1916, he was “awarded 6 Days Detention” and forfeited 12 days’ pay. In September, he went absent without leave and forfeited another 2 days’ pay. He was absent the day his unit was to leave for service overseas.

The records show that he was discharged in October, 1916, as being “medically unfit on return from Desertion.” His conduct and character were described as “fair”.

The records also indicate that he tried to volunteer a second time in December, 1916, in Kingston, stating he had 6 months serving with the 155th Overseas Battalion. He was rejected for being medically “unfit”.

Before the war, William Edward Maracle married Julia A. Williams on the 3rd of November, 1892 [*Tyendinaga Parish Church Record*]. They had three sons and a daughter. Their son Philip was killed in France while serving in WW1. Their son Solomon Maracle was wounded while serving in WW1. Their third son was William Perry and their daughter was named Mary. His wife Julia died in 1912.

William Edward married a second time to Mary Jane Blake (whose mother was Mohawk) on the 25th of February, 1918 [*Archives of Ontario Marriage Registration*]. They had one son, Woodrow W. Maracle. William’s second wife Mary Jane died in 1927.

Records indicate that he may have enfranchised in 1947.

William Edward Maracle died on the 8th of March, 1950, at Belleville General Hospital. His obituary states he had been in poor health for some time and that he was buried at the Belleville Cemetery.

This William Edward Maracle was also known as “Billy Brew”.

Most of the information here is from his WW1 military personnel file [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5910 - 26*]. This file has been digitized and can be found at <http://www.lac-bac.gc.ca>. Other information has been taken from MBQ records.