

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

**Our April 1916
WW1 Volunteers**

**Ambrose Clause, Wesley Maracle, Brant Brant,
William Pinn, Joseph Corby, Nelson Maracle 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 April, 1916

In April, 1916, seven community members volunteered to serve: Ambrose Clause, Wesley Maracle, Brant Brant, William Pinn, Joseph Corby, Nelson Maracle and William Edward Maracle.

William Edward Maracle's attestation was not certified and approved until May, 1916. We will profile him in the May newsletter.

Ambrose Clause has been profiled in the article entitled "*Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte & World War One: Those who survived but whose deaths were related to service*" from August, 2014. William Pinn has been profiled in the article entitled "*WW1 Vets of MBQ: Those That Didn't Come Home*" from November, 2013.

WESLEY MARACLE

Regimental Number: 928669

Wesley was the son of Seth & Catherine Jane (Leween) Maracle. According to his baptismal record he was born on the 8th of April, 1899. He stated his date of birth as the 17th of April, 1899, on his attestation paper.

Wesley signed up on the 17th of April, 1916, in Belleville, Ontario for the 155th Overseas Battalion.

From his military personnel file we learn that before the war he was a farmer with no prior military experience.

He left Canada on the 18th of October, 1916, and arrived in England on the 28th of October, 1916.

In December, 1916, he was transferred to the 154th Battalion. Then in January, 1917, he was transferred to the 156th Battalion.

In March of that year he was admitted to a military hospital with a growth on his ear, and was discharged after it was incised (cut) and drained. It healed fine.

On the 24th of May, 1917, he was transferred to Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and sent to France. He joined his unit in the Field that July.

Wesley suffered a shrapnel wound to the right thigh in November, 1917. A "Foreign Body" (shrapnel) deep in the thigh muscle was removed in France. Most of the shrapnel "passed through muscles" of the right thigh. Then he was sent back to England and transferred to the Eastern Ontario Regimental Depot. The wound healed well with scars at point of entry and exit. Despite his wound, he suffered little weakness in the leg.

In February, 1918, he was sent to the 7th Reserve Battalion. Then he was transferred to the 6th Reserve Battalion.

In April, 1918, Wesley suffered from a bout of measles and broncho-pneumonia. Later medical reports say it was bronchitis rather than pneumonia.

In July, 1918, he returned to the Eastern Ontario Regimental Depot and then to the 3rd Canadian Convalescent Depot. That August he was transferred back to the 6th Reserve Battalion.

Wesley returned to Canada in January, 1919. After arriving in Halifax, he was hospitalized with influenza for almost 11 days. He was discharged at Kingston on the 19th of February, 1919.

After the war, Wesley married Alexandra Andrena Maracle (Andrena). Andrena died in 1936. They had no children.

Wesley died in April, 1938, in Lowville, New York. His death notice in *The Intelligencer* states that he jumped from a burning truck on which he had been riding. He was killed instantly. Wesley was buried on the 21st of April, 1938. There is a headstone at Christ Church Cemetery.

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5910 – 23]. This file has been digitized and can be found at <http://bac-lac.gc.ca>. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

BRANT BRANT

Regimental Number: 637076

Brant was the son of Brant B. & Maggie (Hill) Brant. According to his baptismal record and his attestation paper, he was born on the 10th of February, 1893.

Brant volunteered on the 19th of April, 1916, in Belleville, Ontario for the 155th Overseas Battalion.

From his military personnel record we learn that before the war he was a farmer. He had 2 years of experience with the 49th Regiment.

Twice while in training he went “Absent without Leave” and forfeited pay. But he did sail with his unit to England. Brant left Canada on the 18th of October, 1916, and arrived in England on the 28th.

In December, 1916, he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry. He arrived in France on the 6th of December, 1916.

On the 4th of May, 1917, he was wounded at the Battle of Arras. He suffered a gunshot wound to the right forearm and left leg. A bullet was lodged in the arm and was extracted under local anaesthetic in the hospital in France. The medical report called it a “very minor flesh wound”.

The wound to the left thigh was also from a bullet. It entered the “soft tissue six inches above the knee”. It did not exit the leg, it lodged under the skin and was removed by surgery at the Field hospital. Brant was transferred to the Eastern Ontario Reserve Depot.

On the 25th of May, 1917, the medical report said he was improving. And in June he was well enough for the convalescent hospital. The medical reports indicate that the wounds healed without complications.

On the 29th of March, 1918, he was transferred from the Canadian Corps to the Canadian Machine Gun Corps (Reserve Pool) in the Field.

In June, 1918, he was sent to the 1st Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade.

Brant was hospitalized with influenza on the 28th of November, 1918, with "general pains & weakness, bad cough, High temp" and again on the 21st of January & the 31st January, 1919. He was eventually returned to England.

Brant left for Canada about the 19th of March and was discharged on the 29th of March, 1919, in Kingston.

Brant Brant married Dorsie May Claus on the 27th of April, 1920 [*AO Marriage Registration*]. They had three children: Kenneth, who was killed in WW2, Carl, and Clifford (who died at birth).

In 1953 Dorsie May died and Brant remarried to Mary Beatrice Minaker.

Brant died on the 29th of October, 1965. According to his obituary he had been in poor health for some time. He was buried on the 1st of November, 1965. There is a headstone at Christ Church Cemetery

Most of the information here is from his military personnel file [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1019 – 35*]. This file has been digitized and can be found at <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

JOSEPH CORBY

Regimental Number: 637096

Joseph was the son of Louis & Elizabeth (John) Corby. According to the 1901 census, he was born on the 9th of October, 1874.

Joseph volunteered on the 26th of April, 1916, in Deseronto, Ontario, for the 155th Overseas Battalion.

We learn from his military personnel file that before the war he was a sailor. He had no prior military experience.

Joseph was discharged on the 11th of September, 1916, for being medically unfit. The medical reports indicate that he was blind in the right eye, suffered from bunions on both feet, and was over age. He never served overseas.

Before the war, Joseph Corby married Mary Frances Maracle on the 1st of April 1897 [*AO Marriage Registration*]. They had two sons: Jacob Samuel (who served overseas in WW1) and William Wesley.

Joseph died in October, 1922. He was buried on the 8th of October, 1922.

Most of the information here comes from his military personnel file [*LAC RG150 Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1996 – 5*]. This file has been digitized and can be found at <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

NELSON MARACLE

Regimental Number: 797660

(also known as Nelson Jaynes)

Nelson was the son of Katherine Moses (who married Wellington Jaynes). Some documents indicate his father was a Nelson Maracle. According to the 1901 census, he was born on the 3rd of March, 1889. His attestation paper states a date of birth of the 3rd of March, 1888.

He volunteered on the 28th of April, 1916, in Simcoe, Ontario, for the 133rd Battalion.

On the 8th of July, 1916, Nelson was sentenced “to one year in jail for A.W.L.”.

In December, 1917, he was then transferred to the Depot Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, with the rank of Trooper.

The following February he was discharged for being a “Deserter” in Hamilton.

Nelson was first married to Bertha Homer on the 25th of July, 1910 [*AO Marriage Registration*]. Nelson later married Clara Johnson on the 11th of August, 1924 [*AO Marriage Registration*]. Later still, he lived with Alice John. We do not know when he died.

Most of this information is from his military personnel file [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5910 – 16*]. This file has been digitized and can be found at <http://www.lac-bac.gc.ca>. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

