Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
Community Services — Research Department
December, 2015

Our December 1915 WW1 Volunteers

Marvel Galveston Bernhardt, Charles Clinton Brant, Philip Brant, Ira Alfred Claus, Bertram Fuller, Mark Maracle, Norman Albert Miller, Joseph William Smart

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

Kanhiote Library: 613.967.6264
MBQ Research: 613.396.3424

WW1: Honouring Those Who Volunteered in December, 1915

In December, 1915, eight community members volunteered to serve in World War 1: Marvel Galveston Bernhardt, Charles Clinton Brant, Philip Brant, Ira Alfred Claus, Bertram Fuller, Mark Maracle, Norman Albert Miller and Joseph William Smart.

MARVEL GALVESTON BERNHARDT
Regimental Number: 210075

According to his attestation paper, Marvel was born on the 12th of December, 1896. According to his provincial birth registration, he was born on the 15th of December, 1896 [*AO*].

Marvel was the son of Robert James & Catherine (Maracle) Barnhart.

He signed up on the 8th of December, 1915, in St. Catharines, Ontario, for the 98th Battalion.

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

Marvel left from Halifax on the 8th of July, 1916, and arrived in Liverpool on the 25th of July, 1916. He was transferred to the 58th Battalion on the 7th of September, 1916 and landed in France the next day.

Marvel was wounded on the 10th of August, 1916, but returned from the hospital on the 14th of August. On the 3rd of November, 1916, he was reported "Missing after Action" but rejoined his unit later that day. He was then reported "safe" on the 11th of November, 1916.

In September, 1917, Marvel was found guilty of "when on active service drunkenness" and was sentenced to 7 days Field Punishment.

At Passchendaele, on the 26th of October, 1917, Marvel suffered a penetrating gunshot wound to the left hip. The wound was dressed at the #8 Canadian Field Ambulance on the 27th and was reported as "penetrating the left hip joint with fracture of head of femur: wound excised." Marvel was put into a "Thomas splint" (a metal splint for fractures of the arm or leg). On the 28th he was sent to #4 General Hospital in Camiers, France where his thigh was put into plaster "with window over wound".

He was reported as "Dangerously ill" on the 29th of October, 1917, and wasn't upgraded to seriously ill until December, 1917. He was sent to England in January, 1918, where he was operated on and more bone was removed.

Marvel's wound healed although with "considerable scar tissue and adhesions". He was unable to "flex thigh on abdomen voluntarily owing to adhesions. Thigh can be flexed about 30° with assistance. Some pain in region of hip on movement. Unable to flex left knee voluntarily, can be flexed 10 degrees with assistance. Much pain around knee joint on movement. Scar below knee on inner side of leg from adhesive bandage."

His condition was described in a June 1919 document: "Oct.26/17 T and T (Through and Through) would left hip causing destruction of head on femur (thigh bone). In splints from 11 months. Wounds healed Jan. 1/19-..." He had scars at the entry and exit wounds.

"There is 3" shortening of left leg (Left 26" Rt.29")." The left ankle and foot were affected. "He is fitted with special boot with 2 ½" raise heel and 1/2 "raise ball."

"Foot swells when he removed boot at night. He can walk ¼ mile with stick – If this distance is exceeded aches and becomes tired- He has difficulty in ascending or descending stairs. He cannot put on, or take off left boot or trousers. He cannot walk without stick or ~~crat~~ crutches"

A June 1918 document describes Marvel's disability as "partial loss of function of left leg due to weakness & ankylosis (stiffness & boniness due to injury) left hip & knee & limitation of left ankle. He was invalided to Canada on the 30th of October, 1918, and he was discharged from the military as "Medically Unfit" on the 26th of June, 1919.

Marvel married Loretta May Maracle on the 2nd of July, 1931 *[Archives of Ontario Record]*. They had several children. Marvel died on the 2nd of February, 1967, according to his military personnel file. He is buried in the Deseronto Cemetery.

Most of the information has been taken from his WW1 military personnel file: [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 680 – 29]*. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

Photo courtesy of the Bernhardt Family.

CHARLES CLINTON BRANT
Regimental Number: 220324

According to his baptismal record, Charles was born on the 11th of April, 1901. The date of birth on his attestation paper is the 11th April, 1897.

He was the son of Edward & Annie (Brant) Brant.

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

Charles volunteered on the 29th of December, 1915, in Belleville, Ontario, for the 80th Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He left Canada on the 16th of May, 1916, and arrived in England on the 30th.

On the 13th of June, 1916, Charles was transferred to the 74th Battalion, and then on the 16th of June, 1916, was transferred to the 51st Battalion. Not long after that he was transferred to the Canadian Army Medical Corps in July, 1916. On the 20th of September in the same year, Charles was found to be underage for serving in the Military.

On the 7th of December, 1916, he proceeded to the 64th Battalion. On the 29th of December he was transferred to the 34th Battalion. On the 10th of April, 1917, he was transferred to the Canadian Forestry Corps.

In August, 1917, he was with the Canadian Forestry Corps when he landed in France.

In September, 1918, he suffered a bout of myalgia but rejoined his unit just days later.

He returned to England in January, 1919, and was discharged on the 20th of March, 1919, in Kingston.

After the war, Charles Clinton Brant married Alice Mary Leafe on the 26th October 1921 *[AO]*. They had several children.

Unfortunately, on the 23rd of May,1942, Charles Clinton Brant was struck by a car and killed *[AO]*. He suffered internal injuries and a fractured skull. Charles was buried on the 25th of May, 1942, at Christ Church.

The following is an obituary from an unnamed newspaper dated the 4th of June, 1942:

Charles C. Brant
Instantly Killed 1942

Charles C. Brant of the Tyendinaga Reserve, was instantly killed Saturday morning, when he was run over by a car on No. 2 Highway, a short distance west of Mr. Herkimer Brant's home.

The victim of the sad fatality was attempting to repair his car, which had stalled. Mr. Brant was 41 years old, the son of Mrs. Edward Brant and the late Mrs. Brant. He is survived by his wife and children, his mother, two sisters (Mrs. Mark Maracle and Mrs. James Bardy of Deseronto), and two brothers, Robert and Elmer, at home

The deceased was a valued employee at the Mohawk Airport and a veteran of the Great War, having enlisted at the early age of 14 years.

The funeral was held Monday afternoon at Christ Church, which was filled to capacity.

The flag-draped casket was borne to its last resting place in Christ Church Cemetery by six members of the Deseronto branch of the Canadian Legion: Messers. H.R. Fraser, J.C. McAfee, Alex. Bardy, James Higgins, Ira Claus and A.E. Cockerham.

Much sympathy is felt for the family in their sudden and tragic bereavement.

Most of this information has come from his WW1 military personnel file: *[LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1019 – 39].* This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

PHILIP BRANT
Regimental Number: 797517

According to his baptismal, Philip was born on the 13th of May, 1882, but according to his attestation paper he was born on the 20th of May, 1885.

He was the son of Joshua & Mary (Hill) Brant but, both were dead before he volunteered. He signed up on the 21st of December, 1915, in Waterford, Ontario, for the 133rd Overseas Battalion.

From his military personnel file we learn that before the war, he was a farmer and had no previous experience in the military.

His medical history reports that he had suffered measles, scarlet fever and typhoid as a child. He suffered a bout of bronchitis in August, 1916, while stationed at Camp Borden, prior leaving for England. He left Canada on the 30th of October, 1916, and arrived in England on the 11th of November, 1916.

That same month he was transferred to the 23rd Battalion and then transferred to the 12th Battalion in December, 1916.

Philip suffered a "Severe case of Influenza" and was hospitalized from the 13th of December, 1916, to the 18th of January, 1917. His medical charts show he suffered from a very high fever.

He was transferred to the 3rd Reserve Battalion in January, 1917. He was finally ready to return to duty in February, 1917. He was transferred to 123rd Battalion in April, 1917, and arrived in France that month. He was transferred to the 7th Canadian Battalion in May, 1917. In January, 1918, he was granted 14 days leave in "Paris".

Philip was discharged from the 7th Canadian Battalion on the 9th of May, 1919, in Toronto, Ontario.

Philip married Martha Walker on the 31st of March, 1920 *[AO]*. It is possible they had one son.

Philip died on the 2nd of June, 1922, in Brantford General Hospital. His death was due to emphysema and abscess of lungs *[AO Death Registration]*. His "Death Card" at the Library and Archives Canada states his death was not due to his service. The death registration indicates he was buried on the 5th of June, 1922, at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Most of this information has been taken from his WW1 military personnel file: *[LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1020 – 15]*. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

IRA ALFRED CLAUS
Regimental Number: 455812

Ira was born on the 1st of March, 1884 (very rarely is the case but his baptismal and attestation papers agree).

He was the son of Samuel & Eleanor (Loft) Claus.

Ira signed up on the 21st of December, 1915, at Gananoque, Ontario, for the 59th Battalion.

From his military personnel file we learn that before the war he was a labourer. He also had prior military experience; four years in the 49th Hastings Rifles and one in the 5th Field Battery.

Ira left Canada on the 5th of April, 1916, and arrived in Liverpool, England on the 11th of April, 1916. He was transferred to the 26th Battalion in France in June, 1916.

In July, 1916, Ira suffered from inflammation of the bowels, and in August, 1916, he suffered from gastritis. In that same month he also suffered from myalgia. On the 9th of September, 1916, he suffered an appendicitis attack and was sent back to England for surgery. He underwent an operation on the 14th of September, 1916. The operation left him with a scar described as ¾ inches wide and 4 inches long.

In April, 1917, while on duty he fell down and suffered a rupture of part of the scar from his operation. There was considerable pain and bleeding. This did eventually heal. In May, 1917, he was transferred to the 13th Reserve Battalion. In July, 1917, part of his scar had to be incised (cut) in a second operation and it healed.

Ira was transferred to the Canadian Forestry Corps in November, 1918 and in January, 1919, he was with the Canadian Discharge Depot. In the same month Ira was found guilty of being "Drunk in spring Gardens" and "Using obscene language". He was fined 5 Dollars and was given 14 days in detention. At the end of January 1919 he sailed for home.

Ira was discharged as "medically unfit" on the 3rd March 1919 at Toronto. Medically, he was said to be suffering a disability called "neurasthenia". This is a mental disorder caused by stress or anxiety. Symptoms can include fatigue, irregular heartbeat and neuralgia.

He complained of general weakness and a medical report stated that it could be related to his "long hospital experience".

Although the army stated there was a disability, weakness in the abdomen, they expected a full recovery.

Ira Alfred Claus married Bertha Sarah Brown, four years his senior, on the 11th of July, 1918, in Epsom, in the County of Surrey. Bertha at that time was a domestic cook. Ira and Bertha had one son, Bernard.

Ira died on the 19th of March, 1957. His obituary states he died suddenly at home. He was buried on the 20th of March, 1957 in All Saints Cemetery. His obituary is in *The Ontario Intelligencer*, March 21, 1957, page 2.

Most of information has been taken from his WW1 military personnel file: *[LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 1775 – 27].* This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

BERTRAM FULLER
Regimental Number: 772289

Bertram was the son of Samuel & Louisa (Maracle) Fuller.
According to his baptismal record, he was born on the 30th of September, 1896. But his attestation paper states he was born the 2nd February, 1896.

Bertram signed up on the 3rd of December, 1915, in Brantford, Ontario, for the 125th Overseas Battalion.

From his military personnel file we learn that he was a farmer with no previous military experience.

He left Canada from Halifax on the 6th of August, 1916, and he arrived in Liverpool on the 18th of August, 1916. In October of the same year he was transferred to the 1st Battalion. He left England for France on the 1st of November, 1916.

He was attached to the 1st Trench Mortar Battery on the 19th of May, 1917.

In August 1917, he was sentenced 20 days Field Punishment for neglect of duty. He had failed to deliver rations to the front line on the 20th of August and he failed to take the undelivered rations back to the "Q. M Stores" [Quarter Master Stores].

On the 10th of February, 1918, he was punished for being absent "from parade".

Eight days later Bertram suffered a shrapnel wound to the right hip. He was hospitalized but returned to duty on the 24th of February. The injury left no disability.

On the 30th March, 1918, Bertram was hospitalised for "myalgia". He returned to duty on April 6. The following June he suffered from I.C.T. (Inflammation of Connective Tissue) of the left foot. He also reported sick and was hospitalized again. Bertram rejoined the 1st T. M. B. in July 1918 and returned to the Field.

In September, 1918, Bertram suffered a gunshot wound to the back (a "flesh" wound) and was taken to Camiers, France.

Bertram was discharged from duty on the 10th of February, 1919 with the rank of Private.

Bertram married Theresa Deane on the 15th of May, 1919 *[SHCR] [AO]*. We do not know if they had any children. Some years later, Bertram married Cora

Madeline Dafoe 7th June 1929 in Hamilton [*AO*]. It is possible they had children but we do not have any confirmation.

Bertram died on the 5th of June, 1969, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton.

Most of this information has been taken from his WW1 military personnel file: *[LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 3331 – 16]*. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

MARK MARACLE
Regimental Number: 220323

According to his baptismal record, Mark was born on the 5th of May, 1900 and was baptized "William Marquis". His attestation paper states he was born on the 15th of May, 1897.

Mark was the son of Daniel & Charlotte (Bardy) Maracle.

He volunteered on the 28th of December, 1915, in Belleville, Ontario, for the 80th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF).

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

Mark left Canada on the 15th of May, 1916, and arrived in England on the 29th or 30th of May, 1916. He was transferred to the 74th Battalion on the 9th of June, 1916. He was then transferred to the 51st Battalion later in June, 1916. After that, he was transferred to the 74th Battalion in July, 1916. He was transferred to the Canadian Casualty Assembly Centre on the 21st of July, 1916.

At this point Mark was discovered to be "underage". He was sent to a training unit until "19 years of age". He was reattached to the 51st Battalion in August, 1916. That Battalion was known as the "Garrison Duty Battalion" onwards from November, 1916.

Mark was assessed for fitness in October, 1916, and was found to be "fit". He was transferred to the 2nd Quebec Regimental Depot on the 6th of June, 1917. He was transferred to the Eastern Ontario Regimental Depot on the 13th of June, 1917. In July, 1917, he was transferred to the 6th Reserve Battalion. He was sent to the 21st Battalion in August, 1917, and left for the Field. Mark was wounded in the Field on the 4th of November, 1917, by shrapnel to the face. It is reported this took place at the Passchendaele Sector.

He suffered wounds to the "outer margin orbital surface, frontal bone, malar cone, zygomatic process, temporal bone"

He was transferred to the Canadian Labor Pool in December, 1917. He reported for duty on the 18th of December, 1917, and was transferred to the Canadian Veterans Hospital at Havre.

In January, 1918, Mark forfeited 14 days' pay for "Drunkenness" and being "Absent from 9PM to 9-10PM (10 mins)" on New Year's Eve, 1917.

He left the Field and returned to England in February, 1919. He was attached to the 4th Canadian Reserve Battalion and from there he was attached to the General Depot. In April, 1919, Mark ceased to be attached to the General Depot and left England for Canada in May, 1919.

Mark was discharged on the 14th of May, 1919, in Kingston. His discharge papers report a scar on his face from the wound he received.

One medical report stated that he suffered impaired vision in his left eye. In another report it states Mark himself reported "practically no sight of any kind in his left eye". Medical staff reported that the "Defective vision left eye due to patches of old choroiditis (inflammation of the middle, vascular coat of the eye which can cause blurred vision if in the macular area) in the neighbourhood of macular origin was not present previous to enlistment and has been caused by service."

"While on active service in the Passchendaele Sector on November 4th 1917 he received shrapnel wounds at the outer part orbital surface frontal bone and the neighbourhood resulting in a choroiditis which has completely destroyed the usefulness of his left eye. Ever since the Passchendaele experience his nerves have been "shot to pieces". About one month under active treatment. He was then retained at the base N Le Havre and not allowed again to proceed up the line."

He had served for 3 years and 63 days.

Photo Courtesy of Troy Maracle & Family.

Mark married Vellis Brant on the 15th of October, 1919 *[CR][AO]*. They had several children. He died on the 25th of June, 1986.

Most of this information has come from his WW1 military personnel file: [LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 5910 – 14]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

Note: Mark Maracle also served in WW2. According to family, he was a guard for a POW (Prisoner of War) Camp and also aided in the postal service. It would have been impossible for him to serve overseas after sustaining such injuries from WW1.

NORMAN ALBERT MILLER
Regimental Number: 220322

According to his baptismal record, he was born on the 26th of June, 1894. His attestation paper states his date of birth was the 25th of June, 1894.

Norman was the son of Alexander Miller & Lydia Maracle.

Norman volunteered on the 29th of December, 1915, in Belleville, Ontario for the 80th Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

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 16th of May, 1916, and arrived in England on the 30th of May, 1916. He was transferred to the 74th Battalion in June, 1916 and then transferred to the 38th Battalion in July, 1916. He arrived in France in August and took a "Lewis Gun Course" in December 1916.

On the 28th of June, 1917, Norman suffered gunshot wounds to the left shoulder and right hand at Vimy Ridge. There was a "gutter" wound on the second knuckle and a "gutter" wound on the shoulder. On the 3rd of July, 1917, he was admitted to the Canadian Hospital in Epsom, England. The shoulder was reported to be "O.K." but the left hand was still injured, especially limited movement in the middle finger.

In July, 1917, he was posted to the Eastern Ontario Regimental Depot. In August, he was reported to be "Recovered. Has had massage and special exercises with best results. Now fit."

Norman was posted to the 7th Reserve Battalion in August, 1917, and then was transferred to the 38th Battalion. He returned to the Field and was attached to the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Corps. He then rejoined the 38th Battalion.

In May, 1918, he was transferred to the Canadian Machine Gun Corps and then was transferred to the 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps while in the Field.

Norman was appointed Acting Corporal "(with pay)" and then was appointed Acting Sargent in September, 1918.

He left England on June 6th and arrived back in Canada on the 12th of June, 1919.

He was discharged with the rank of Corporal on the 16th of June, 1919, in Kingston.

Norman Albert Miller married Mary Lillian Gowdy on the 23rd April 1920 in Tweed [*Archives of Ontario Marriage Registration*]. When he married he put his occupation down as "Electrician".

According to his military file, he died on the 20th of May, 1977, in Brantford, Ontario. We have no further information about descendants or family of Norman.

Most of this information has come from his WW1 military personnel file: [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 6193 – 7*]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.

JOSEPH WILLIAM SMART
Regimental #700161

Joseph's date of birth was reported as the 4th of September, 1897, on his attestation paper but his birth registration stated it was the 4th of December, 1899.

Joseph William Smart was the son of Joseph Laheed & Philomen (Rauney) Smart.

He signed up on the 8th of December, 1915, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, for the 101st Overseas Battalion (Winnipeg Light Infantry).

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

Joseph suffered tonsillitis in December, 1915.

He left Canada on the 28th of June, 1916, and arrived in England on the 6th of July, 1916. He was transferred to the 17th Reserve Battalion on the 14th of July, 1916. Joseph left for France on the 10th of September, 1916, and was transferred to the 43rd Battalion (Cameron Highlanders of Canada).

Joseph was sent on a sniping course in January, 1917. He was charged with "losing by neglect – equipment" in March 1917. In May, 1917, he was sent on another sniper's course.

Joseph suffered a gunshot wound to the left shoulder on the 4th of July, 1917. Part of his shoulder blade (the "acromia process") was removed while in France. He was sent back to England for recovery. An X-ray showed that a "small foreign body" was still in his shoulder. He was discharged from hospital in August, 1917.

One of his medical reports stated Joseph suffered occasional pain in the left shoulder which was not increased by cold or wet weather and not worse at night. He suffered no pain carrying weight with his left arm but that the arm tired easily. He suffered a "loss of power in all direction with shoulder as fulcrum and arm and forearm as lever 30% less than right"

Joseph was identified as being underage in January, 1918. He was discharged as "Physically Unfit and Underage" on the 23rd of April, 1918. His character on discharge was "Very Good".

We have no further information on Joseph William Smart.

Most of this information has been taken from his WW1 military personnel file: [*LAC RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 8995 – 15*]. This file has been digitized. Other information has been taken from MBQ Records.