

katchewan by an escort from "F" Division under the command of Supt. G. B. Moffatt. We arrived at Prince Albert at 5.30 p.m. of September 6 and my job ended.

"While at Prince Albert I had the privilege of making the acquaintance of the great Joe McCoy, guide and interpreter, who was credited with firing the first shot at the Indians in the Riel Rebellion. A great scout was Joe; everyone liked him.

"I left for Duck Lake the next morning, the district where a little over a month later poor Colebrook was killed by Almighty Voice (Reg. No. 605, Sgt. C. C. Colebrook was shot on Oct. 29, 1895). I had two prisoners with me whom I was taking to Fort Saskatchewan and who later were tried at Calgary."

### Grandiose Claims

Our readers, particularly members of the Force, doubtless will be interested in the following account which is typical of many stories that filter through to the R.C.M.P. from time to time. Written by a staff writer of the Minneapolis *Tribune*, it was sent to the *Quarterly* by an old-time ex-staff sergeant who maintains an alert and jealous eye in our behalf in the part of the United States where he lives:

A childhood playmate of British royalty, Boer war veteran and former member of the North West Mounted Police is spending the declining years of a fabulous life in Winona, Minn.

He is Walter H. Dunston, Esq., 78, British-born world traveller and friend of the great. "Squire" Dunston has been living at 611 S. Sanborn street, the home of his late uncle, since his retirement as Winona county justice of the peace in 1941.

The squire's own story of his life, taken from his scrap-book and garnished with his lively, Oxford-accented conversation, is both colourful and incredible.

He was born in 1868 in Richmond Surrey, near London. Son of a wealthy contractor, his playmates were the children of the Duke and Duchess of Teck, who lived nearby.

"They were very poor people. One of their daughters is my oldest living friend. We sang together in the choir at Christ church, Kew road. She is now Dowager Queen Mary, and we correspond regularly."

As evidence Dunston displayed the following letter:

Marlborough House  
Apr. 26, 1942.

Dear Sir—

I am commanded by Queen Mary to send greetings for your 73rd birthday, May 27, and Her Majesty wishes to say that you are now number 24 yet living of the birthday club formed by her mother, Her Royal Highness, Duchess of Teck, 70 years ago at Christ church, Eastsheen, Richmond Park. Queen Mary also thanks you for your letter and contents of March 28.

Yours very truly,  
J. Lewisham, private secretary  
to H.M. Queen Mary.

The squire also was a chum of another member of the royal family, the Earl of Athlone, Queen Mary's eldest brother and former Governor General of Canada.

"We went to school together and had many good times. Here is a letter he wrote me following the death of my famous horse, Billy."

Government House  
Ottawa, Canada  
May 28, 1942.

Dear Mr. Dunston—

This is to thank you very much for your letter which I have read with much pleasure and interest. I also send greetings for your 73rd birthday and hope to have the pleasure of your company sometime during the year.

The newspaper cutting you sent me about the death of your horse, Billy, reminds me of the death of Monarch, the horse you and my brothers learnt to ride 60 years ago, and was pensioned off when we left for school.

Yours sincerely,  
Athlone.

Dunston noted with pride that he went to school at St. Paul's, then to Eton and on to Oxford university, where he studied theology. For a time he was an exchange student at Heidelberg university in Germany.

After his student days, he said, he was attached to the party of Lord Salisbury, then Prime Minister, and the Prince of Wales, who was later to be Edward VII.