

#2220 Clay Street.
San Francisco.
California.

August 5. 1933.

Sir Arthur W. Currie. G.C.M.G.,K.C.B.
Principal and Vice-Chancellor.
Mc Gill University.
Montreal. P.Q.

Dear Sir Arthur;

Your letter of 29th June was intensely interesting, first because of the reference to the marriage of your daughter to Galt Durnford, a son of A.D.Durnford, (Dessie ϕ whom I knew well many years ago , when he was Accountant I think , in the Molsons Bank, as my duties took me to that Bank almost daily for some years. Mr Durnford was a gentleman of the old type, genial and obliging in every way , and if his son inherits his characteristics, then your daughter has a good husband, and you a good son-in-law. Congratulations all round.

The family connection is I believe, Sir A.T.Galt, an Uncle of Brooke's Wife Helen Savage, whose Mother, Mrs Savage was I believe a Galt. Then, A.D. Durnford married a Galt also, and his son Galt married your Daughter . Q.E.D. you can check me up .

Your account of the laying of the foundation stone of the new Armoury for the 3rd Batbrings back memories, for I , as a boy used to play in the grounds back of the Natural History Museum, which extended up to the old Crystal Palace , which stood facing Victoria street, being part of the site of the armoury. That reminds me that Montreal's original armoury , as far as I am aware, stood at the foot of Beaver Hall Hill, facing what was then the " Hay Market where hundreds of sleighs stood in lines daily through the winter, having driven in to town during the early hours.

The armoury was a one story wooden building facing on Lagauchetier street , and running back into the hill. It was afterwards rented or sold to Bancroft's express , and was a Livery stable.

It was in that neighborhood that the " Gavazzi " riots took place. Gavazzi was a Roman Monk , converted, he preached in England , and arrived in Canada in 1853 , went to Quebec where he met with a rather warm reception, and came to Montreal. He preached in the old Zion church , which stood at the foot of Beaver Hall Hill, (subsequently turned into a factory) and the riot took place between the church and armoury. The Military were called out , fired into the crowd , and several were killed and wounded.

The father of some boyhood friends of mine was shot in the leg and limped thereafter. That is how I got my information , before reading of it in History.

I am very glad to hear that the Military units in Montreal are in good standing , they certainly did their duty in 1914 1918 . Yesterday was the anniversary of England's entering the war. I dinna forget. I am still British , although living in this country.

With kind regards, I remain,
Yours faithfully.

Fred J Clayton