

The Dawn of Tomorrow

THE NATIONAL NEGRO WEEKLY
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THE END OF AN EPIC

Almost 15 years ago—in May, 1933—The Legionary published a story entitled "Canada's Third V.C." It described in considerable detail the life of William Edward Hall, a full-blooded Negro from the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia, and how he won the Victoria Cross while serving as an Able Seaman in a special brigade composed of officers and men from H.M.S. "Shannon" which, during the Indian mutiny in 1857 went inland from Calcutta and participated in the relief of Lucknow.

After outlining the fierce battle on November 14, 1857, in which Hall won the V.C., The Legionary went on to describe how Canada's third Victoria Cross winner left the Royal Navy in 1880 and returned to his native province where he devoted himself to farming and where he died in August, 1904, at the age of 80.

As a result of the publication of this article considerable interest was aroused among Legion members in Nova Scotia as to where William Hall was buried. In due course the Provincial Secretary of the Nova Scotia Command—then, as now, Major Alistair MacKinnon—was able to inform The Legionary that a search party had located the grave hidden away and completely overgrown with brambles in an abandoned rural cemetery near Hantsport. The Nova Scotia Legion, he said, would endeavour to obtain permission from the provincial authorities to have the body disinterred and reburied in a proper cemetery and also have a suitable memorial erected over the grave.

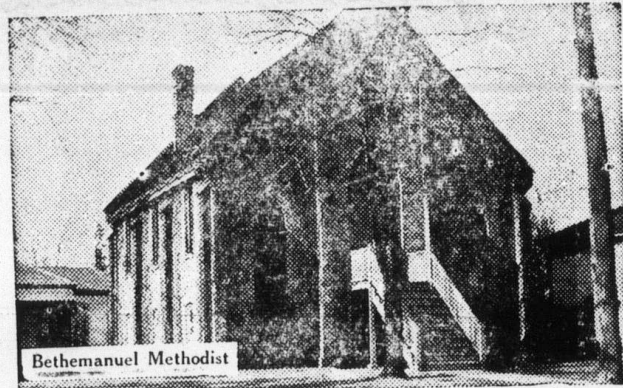
After many delays the disinterment arrangements were approved and reburial took place at Hantsport, but the outbreak of the Second Great War caused the memorial plan to be postponed. On November 9 last, however, at an impressive ceremony at Hantsport conducted by the Hants County Branch of the Canadian Legion, a memorial was unveiled to the memory of the old warrior. The monument, built of native field stone carries a replica of the Victoria Cross and a bronze plaque giving the simple details of the hero's birth and death. It stands over his grave in the churchyard of Hantsport Baptist Church, which he attended during his life-time. The congregation had formally presented the plot to the Hants Co. Branch of the Legion for the purpose of enabling them to carry out their worthy plan, and the Town of Hantsport has undertaken to give the grave perpetual care.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by Rear-Admiral C. R. H. Taylor, C.B.E., of the Atlantic Command of the Royal Canadian Navy. A navy guard of honour was present together with the Royal Canadian Navy band from Halifax, and the moving ceremony was attended by a large gathering of citizens and Legion members from branches throughout this part of Nova Scotia, including the William Hall, V.C. Branch of Halifax, which is composed entirely of coloured war veterans.

Inspiring Addresses At B.M.E. 100th Anniversary

On Sunday, February 16th the B. M.E. Church celebrated the 100th Colored Methodist Church Anniversary, under the supervision of the pastor, Rev. E. A. Richardson, Mayor and Mrs. G. Wenige were among the guests. The choir assisted by singing spirituals: "Steal Away to Jesus", "When He Calls me I Will Answer" and "Glory, Glory Hallelujah." Mrs. A. Brooks was accompanied at the piano. Mr. Fred Smith from Woodstock brought a group who also assisted greatly by giving various numbers. During the evening Miss Donna Chase, of Winnipeg offered a soprano solo—"But I Know He Has Redeemed Me." Rev. Clifford Johnson, former pastor, read the Scripture lesson.

Rev. Richardson took as his topic "The Sermon on the Mount." He pointed out that Christ in preaching that sermon set clear rules for the living of a Christian life. He



Bethanuel Methodist

asked that the young as well as the old, give their service to the church to not give up hope, and requested whole hearted support for the church which has served for 100 years and to adjust ourselves seriously. He also spoke of a blind plowman who had lost not his sight but thankful because his mind could see. There are certain revelations that God makes to man that never take shape or color. We must watch out for the young how we live so we shall not be blamed for their mishaps. Rev. Richardson also stressed the point of what shall a man gain if he gains the whole world and loseth his soul—seek out more of God in these hectic days that are passing and exhorting them that have eyes to see—to see.

When one does not see behind his nose and cannot see ahead for the generations still to come, it does not look any too bright for the Christian world.

The Sunday offering was lifted by David and Donald Jenkins.

Thus, at last, this humble Negro seaman, the first "man of colour", and the third Canadian, to win the Empire's highest award for valour, has found a fitting resting place, and The Legionary is glad to be able, after 15 years, to publish the end of his epic story.

—Reprinted from The Legionary

Sunday February 22.
The continuation of the Centennial Services was carried on by the pastor, Rev. Richardson assisted by Dr. Edwards of Windsor, Ont. Dr. Edwards' address was "God and His People."—Psalm 46, verse 7. The God of Jacob is our refuge. Had it not been so we would not be able to have spent 100 years. Ever since the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, he said there are a great number of instances we could use to verify this statement if honest with ourselves and God. Once at Mons when they were delivered from the German attack, and secondly and more recently, at Dieppe. When the sea, rough one day, smooth the next enabled the evacuation of the British troops. Why? Because God protected them and is always with his people. God is real, because we walk and talk with Him when in distress. He comes to our assistance



Dr. Dawson
RT. REV. T. H. DAWSON
Present General Superintendent
B. M. E. Church of Canada

hovah, my maker. The ancient Hebrews used the term I.H.B.H. and refers to Jehovah our Comforter or leaders, our shield. The Church has shed many tears; sometimes it has been thrown in the arena to be torn by wild beasts; again on the wild seas, and at times it has hidden in corners. But it still stands because Jehovah is with her. Let it be your resolution this centennial to be faithful and seek ye first the Kingdom of heaven. Man cannot sink so low

First Negro Solicitor

Ontario residents who have read reports of colored students seeking admission to American law schools may be interested in knowing that a somewhat similar problem was dealt with by the Ontario Legislature in 1884, and that on March 25 of that year "an act to authorize the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario to admit Delos Rogest Davis to practice as a solicitor" was passed by the Assembly.

The preamble to the Act states that Delos Rogest Davis of the Township of Colchester North, in the County of Essex, having spent four years as a public school teacher, was in 1871 appointed a commissioner for taking affidavits and in 1873 a notary public; that he was anxious to enter the profession of law; that in consequence of prejudices against his color and because he was of African descent he had not been articled to any attorney or solicitor or served under articles; that he had notwithstanding devoted himself to the study of law; and that in his opinion he had acquired such education in law as would enable him to pass the final examination prescribed by the Law Society for persons seeking to be admitted as solicitors.

It was therefore enacted that the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario might lawfully admit the said D. R. Davis to practice as a solicitor upon his paying the proper fees and passing the prescribed examination, without his compliance with any other requirement or provision of law or other rules or regulations of the said Law Society, any law custom or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

J. Joseph Garvey,
R.R. No. 1 Albion, Ont.

—From Toronto Globe and Mail

that God cannot bring him back to safety. In his closing remarks Dr. Edwards made an appeal to those out of the church to surrender all and to the older members to re-consecrate themselves to God and make this indeed a memorable day.

A quartette number, "Fight the Good Fight" by Rev. Richardson, Mrs. Hattie Johnson, Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Ball. Mr. Ball of Windsor is the nephew of Mr. Fred Ball, city. He also sang a most appropriate solo, "Bless This House."

City officials and dignitaries have received invitations to worship with us Sunday evening, February 29th, when Mr. Wm. Harrison, brother of the late Richard B. Harris will conduct the services. On the following Monday evening an historical review of the church's history will be given.

Rev. Wm. Harrison and his late brother, Richard B. Harrison were at one time residents of this city.

A short history of the progress of the B.M.E. Church in this vicinity will be found on the inside pages of this issue of the "Dawn."

Negro Community Centre Proposed

The construction of a community centre for the Negro people of this city is proposed by the newly formed Community Centre Club. A request for a building site will be sent immediately to City Council. Negroes in London at present number more than 300, including 68 families, and it is believed that a common meeting place of this kind would bring them closed together.

It is proposed to build the centre on Glenwood avenue near Trafalgar street. If council accedes to the request for a site, the Community Centre Club will launch at once a program to raise a construction fund.

"We want to keep our boys and girls off the street," said Mrs. Frank Howson, president, who presided for the meeting. "Besides that, we feel that if we can get our people together they will be able to take a more active part in community life than they are doing now, and some of them will take a new interest in the church."

Instruction Classes

The centre would hold instructional classes for young colored people of the city. Instructors already have volunteered to teach girls art, needle work, cooking, sports and music, and to teach the boys leatherwork, radio, music, sports and other interests. Melford Johnson already has begun to organize basketball teams among boys and girls.

If Council agrees to grant land for the building project, members of the group say they will bring the Great Lake Choir of Negro singers here from Detroit to hold a public concert in a London theatre in the near future to help raise funds. This internationally famous choir is directed by Lorne Melbourne.

Officers Elected

Officers elected at the meeting include Mrs. Frank Howson, president; Mrs. Jack Moley, secretary; Mrs. James Coursey, treasurer.

Members committee: Mrs. Agnes Brooks and Mrs. C. S. Johnson; Luncheon conveners, Mrs. Harry Coursey and Mrs. Arthur Moxley. advisory board, Rev. E. A. Richardson, Rev. C. S. Johnson and James Brooks; building committee, Arthur Moxley, George Anderson; corresponding secretaries, Mrs. Allan Anderson and Mrs. George Anderson.

Speakers for the evening were: Rev. E. A. Richardson, Mrs. Richards of the Home and School Club; Mr. Roadda on music and his willingness to teach a band; Mr. Melvin Johnson, for the youth; Mrs. S. Johnson, on spiritual guidance.

JACK McVEA GOES TO HARLEM QUARTER CLUB, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

Jack McVea will "open the door" at the Harlem Quarter Club in Oakland, California on February 4th. Always a favorite in the Bay Area the McVea Orchestra have just completed an extended run at the El Boracho in San Francisco.