

RIFLE ASSOCIATION,

7th Military District,

W. D. Lindsay
30 Jan 1864.

UPPER CANADA.



1863.

HAMILTON:

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Rifle Association, 7th Military Dist.

UPPER CANADA,

ORGANIZED, JULY 1863.

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PATRON.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT-HONORABLE
CHARLES STANLEY, VISCOUNT MONCK.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA,
CAPT.-GEN. AND GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE PROVINCE OF CANADA,
&c., &c., &c., &c.

PRESIDENT.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL BOOKER, *Commandant Active Force, Hamilton.*

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

LIEUT.-COLONEL HAMILTON; LIEUT.-COLONEL ROLLAND McDONALD;
MAJOR VILLIERS, Major of Brigade 7th Military District.

VICE-PRESIDENTS, (EX-OFFICIO.)

LIEUT.-COL.	BUCHANAN, M.P.P.,	Commanding	13th Batt'n	Volunteer Militia.
"	McGIVERIN, M.P.P.,	"	20th	" "
"	G. K. CHISHOLM,	"	1st Batt'n	Halton "
"	W. CLAY,	"	4th	" "
"	JOHN YOUNG,	"	1st Batt'n	Went'th "
"	T. ADAMS,	"	2d Batt'n	Lincoln "
"	T. C. STREET, M.P.P.,	"	1st Batt'n	Welland "
"	J. SCHOLFIELD,	"	3d	" "

And Field Officers of Militia of the District.

The Mayors of Hamilton, St. Catherine's and Niagara. The Wardens and High Sheriffs of the Counties of Halton, Wentworth, Haldimand, Lincoln and Welland.

COUNCIL.

Captains—HISCOTT,
J. W. KERR,
CROSSLAND,
W. GILLESPIE,
F. W. McDONALD,
C. MAGILL,
A. BROWN,

Captains—McDONAGH,
BARNETT,
McGHIE,
BARCLAY,
D. McINNES,
J. S. CLARK,
McSLOY,

Captains—S. KERNS,
JOHN BROWN,
LLOYD,
J. YOUNG,
STEWART,
G. BAXTER,
A. STOW

TRUSTEES.

—CAPTAINS JOHN BROWN, STOW, CATTLEY.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

CAPTAIN S. T. CATTLEY, 13th Battalion Volunteer Militia Infantry.

—*"Spectator" Steam Press, Prince's Square, Hamilton, C.W.*

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FIRST REPORT

OF THE

Rifle Association of the 7th Military District, U.C.

THE COUNCIL have great pleasure in laying this their first Report before the members of the Association.

The Association was organized at a meeting held at the Royal Hotel, in Hamilton, on the 21st July, 1863, called by public notice, signed by Lt.-Col. BOOKER, on behalf of a preliminary Committee, and embraces the whole of the 7th Military District of Upper Canada. The object of the Association is to assist in giving permanence to the Volunteer Corps of the District, encouragement to Drill Associations, and to promote Rifle Shooting.

It consists of such persons as may become subscribers of \$5.00 or upwards, annually, and of all donors of \$20.00 or upwards, for prizes; or, being of the Militia of the District, as may contribute such sum per annum, at the least, as would be equal to the following amounts, respectively, viz:—

Lieut.-Col. - - -	17s. 6d. stg.	Major - - - - -	16s. 0d. stg.
Captain - - - -	11s. 6d. "	Lieutenant - - -	6s. 6d. "
Ensign - - - -	5s. 3d. "	Rank and File - -	1s. 0d. "

His excellency the Governor-General was solicited, and graciously consented to become Patron of the Association.

THE ORGANIZATION COMPLETED

Circulars, and copies of the Rules were sent to all Field Officers of Militia (Volunteer and Sedentary) in the District, and the proceedings of the first meeting were published in the Hamilton daily papers.

It was proposed that the first Prize Meeting should be held at Grimsby, and the permission to use the ranges leased by the Imperial authorities, as well as the butts, targets, and other stores, at that place, was obtained; but, after discussion, the Council deemed it advisable to accede to a proposal made them by E. Hilton, Esq., of Hamilton, to the effect, that in consideration of the Rifle Meeting for 1863, being held in Hamilton, he would guarantee to the Association a sum of money (in extra subscriptions) sufficient to prepare a range in Hamilton of a more extensive and convenient character than that at Grimsby, and one which would be generally approved of. The subscriptions secured by Mr. Hilton, for the purpose named, amounted to \$193.00, (one hundred and ninety-three dollars.) The Council desire to express their acknowledgments for the assistance thus rendered by that gentleman towards the success of the Prize Meeting.

The range finally selected combined many advantages—it was near to town, (thus enabling the Council to avail themselves of the services of working parties of the P.C.O.'s Rifle Brigade) quite safe, and so extensive as to admit of the use of six targets, at the same time, by the firing parties.

It may be remarked that as the range was new, it required, not only that proper butts should be built, but the expenditure of a good deal of labor upon it, before the commencement of the Match.

It was decided that the Regulations for the Match should be as follows, viz:—

REGULATIONS FOR THE MATCH.

1.—The Prize Meeting shall take place at Hamilton, and commence on the 13th day of October next, on which day the firing shall commence at 10, a. m. The firing on other days shall commence at 9, a. m.

2.—There shall be five targets, and one pool target.

3.—The firing will be according to the Wimbledon system.

4.—There shall be six ranges, viz:

Class A	200 yards.	Class D.....	500 yards.
“ B	300 “	“ E	600 “
“ C.....	400 “	“ F.....	800 “

5.—The shooting at ranges A and B shall be off the shoulder only. At ranges C, D and E, it shall be from the knee, Hythe position, unless off the shoulder. At range F, in any position not involving artificial rests.

6.—The size of the targets shall be as follows:

Range A,	200 yards,	6 ft. high and 4 ft. wide,	8-in. sq. bull's eye,	2 ft. sq. centre.
" B,	300 "	6 × 4,	" "	" "
" C,	400 "	6 × 8,	2 ft. square bull's eye,	4 ft. square centre.
" D,	500 "	6 × 8,	" "	" "
" E,	600 "	6 × 8,	" "	" "
" F,	800 "	6 × 12,	3 ft. square	" 6 ft. "

7.—The prizes shall be adjudged according to the points made by each competitor. The points are the same at all ranges. Outer, 1 white flag; centre 2, dark blue flag; bull's eye 3, red and white. Add one point to every hit.

8.—None but Government ammunition, as supplied on the ground, shall be used with rifles of Government issue, carrying the '577 bore. The ammunition will be supplied from the Association tent, free of charge, to competitors, on presenting their entrance tickets.

9.—All rifles to be loaded under the inspection of the officer in charge of the party firing.

10.—No person will be allowed on the ground with a loaded rifle, except in the firing squad, in position.

11.—Open sights alone allowed. Hair triggers and artificial rests prohibited.

12.—One minute of time allowed from the call to fire, the competitor to lose his shot should he not have fired in the time named.

13.—The pull of trigger to be not less than 6 lbs. in Enfield rifles or rifles of Government issue, in all other rifles, 3 lbs.

14.—In all comers' matches, any description of rifle may be used, provided its weight does not exceed 10 pounds, and the pull of trigger is not less than 3 lbs.

15.—The winner's rifle to be tested immediately after firing, and if found to be less than the minimum pull of trigger, the prize will be awarded to the next best shot.

16.—The Council will decide all disputed points on the ground—their decision to be final.

17.—Volunteers to be in full uniform when competing for prizes, and to procure a certificate of membership from the officer commanding the corps to which they belong. Officers to be in full or undress uniform.

18.—The firing will be in the order in which the competitors enter their names.

19.—Undecided shots, or ties, shall be determined by shots fired at the longest range named for the prize in question.

20.—All competitors shall be under the authority of the officer of the day.

21.—Any competitor infringing the Regulations of the Council upon the grounds will be disqualified from further shooting.

It was found necessary to deviate somewhat from the general arrangements proposed, but the deviation was not of a material character.

THE PRIZE MEETING

Commenced on the morning of the 13th October, and continued four days. The weather, until the last day, was propitious, the attendance good, the interest amongst competitors continuous, and the appearance of the camp and shooting ground most picturesque; not the slightest accident occurred, nor did any difficulty arise to mar the success. Expressions of pleasure and satisfaction were heard on all sides.

Application was made to the Imperial authorities, through Lord Alexander Russell, the Commandant of the Garrison, for the loan of tents, targets, and musketry instruction stores required. Every assistance asked for was cheerfully rendered. A guard of the P.C.O. Rifle Brigade was each day, during the match, on duty upon the grounds. Experienced markers and assistants were obtained from the same distinguished regiment. To the consideration of the noble and gallant officer named, the Association is indebted for auxiliaries of so important a character.

The firing commenced each day at 10 o'clock, a. m., and continued until 5, p. m.,—half an hour being allowed, to the markers and others, at mid-day for dinner.

The Council restricted the competitors in the greater number of the matches to the use of the Enfield rifle, or rifles of Government issue, '577 bore.

Five hundred and twenty-four entries were made, exclusive of those for the pool and sighting targets. The Council issued from the ammunition tent five quarter barrels of Enfield ammunition, free of charge, to competitors.

The matches contested were nine in number. The money prizes, distributed amongst twelve winners, amounted to the sum of \$677, exclusive of the values of the pools.

In addition to the prizes offered by the Association, one gold and two silver medals were competed for, viz:—The President's gold medal, Major Magill's silver medal, and Captain A. Brown's silver medal.

It was left optional with the winners in all the matches, other than those for the Volunteer Challenge Cup and the medals, to select a money prize or a piece of silver plate of corresponding value. The Council remark that in every case the winner preferred money to plate.

The prizes won were presented in the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, on the 13th November, in the presence of nearly one thousand spectators, admitted to the Hall by invitation tickets. The presentations to the winners in "The all Comers' Match" were made by Lady Alexander Russell, and of the Ladies of Hamilton Prize, by Mrs. Isaac Buchanan, of Auchmar House. The Council have reason to feel proud of the visible additional interest in the prosperity of the Association produced by the proceedings.

The Council, on behalf of the Association, desire to tender their thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who were good enough to make the presentation of the prizes. The following extracts from the published reports, as set forth in the daily newspapers, will be read with interest:

Presentation of Prizes of the Rifle Association.

According to previous notice the presentation of prizes won at the rifle match held recently in this city, was made in the Mechanics' Hall, last night. The proceedings were to commence at eight o'clock, but long before that hour the Hall was filled to its utmost capacity, although, in order to obtain as much room as possible, all the benches had been removed, except a few next the walls. The P.C.O. Rifle Brigade Band occupied the platform at the east end, and the presentations were made on the alcove on the north side of the Hall. Lieut.-Col. Booker occupied the chair, and around him were seated Lady Russell, Colonel and Mrs. Buchanan, Col. Macdonald, Col. Hamilton, Major Villiers, Major Magill, Captain Brown, and the various gentlemen who officiated as the dispensers of the prizes. The ceremony of awarding the prizes was as follows:—The Secretary of the Association first read the nature of the prizes contested for, and the names of the winners, and then handed the diploma to the President, Col. Booker, by whom it was delivered to the presenter for presentation to the successful competitors.

The proceedings were opened by the Rifle Brigade Band, after which Col. Booker came forward and expressed his gratification at seeing so large a number of persons present on the occasion of the presentation of the prizes won at the first rifle match of the Seventh Military District Rifle Association. He thanked the ladies not only for their attendance on this occasion, but for the interest they had manifested in the rifle match, and said that to them in no small degree its success was due. He also expressed the thanks of the Association to the noble and gallant Colonel of the P.C.O. Rifle Brigade, who had done much to contribute to the success of the match, obtaining for the Association the use of targets, tents, &c., and added that without this assistance, the match would not have been so successful. To shew how satisfactory the affair had been he would merely

state that over five hundred persons had entered as competitors for the different prizes, and that nearly four thousand rounds of ammunition had been distributed from the ammunition tent, in addition to which other ammunition had been used in contesting for prizes open to rifles other than those of government issue. After some further remarks, Col. Booker resumed his seat. The first prize was then presented:—

(1.) ASSOCIATION PRIZES.

Presented on behalf of the Association by Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, Vice-President. 1st prize, silver cup; value \$40, or \$40 in money, at the option of the winner; winner, Private Weston, P.C.O. Rifle Brigade; 12 hits and points. Second prize, \$15, Corporal Francis, P.C.O. Rifle Brigade; 12 hits and points. Third prize, \$5, John Harvey, No. 4 Company, 13th Battalion Volunteers, Hamilton; 12 hits and points.

Class B, range 300 yards, open only to members of Volunteer Militia Corps, enrolled members of Drill Associations, and soldiers of the Queen's service. Entrance, 25 cents. Rifles of Government issue actually in service; 5 rounds.

Lieut.-Col. Hamilton said,—The Council of the Rifle Association have done me the honor to entrust to me the presentation of the Association prize. I have accepted it, not from a sense that I am at all very well qualified for the discharge of the duty, but because I am proud of being associated with an organization in the success of which our homes and our country are so deeply concerned. Before proceeding further, however, let me take this opportunity of making an acknowledgment which I think justly due, and connected with our present meeting. The origin of a Rifle Association for this Military District belongs mainly, I might well say altogether, to the patriotic exertions of the officers of the Volunteer Militia of this city, and all will acknowledge that they have had for their reward, in the first Rifle Tournament of the Seventh Military District, an entire success, and I am sure not one of the officers who have lent their helping hand to this good work, will accuse me of a wish to detract one iota from the efficient services they lent, when I specially name how much is due to our worthy President, Col. Booker, to our hard-working and efficient Secretary and Treasurer, Capt. Cattley, and to Major Villiers, the Brigade Major of the District.

(2.) ALL COMERS' MATCH.

First prize, a silver cup, value \$100, or \$100 in money; winner, Mr. J. McLean, Toronto; 30 hits and points. Second prize, \$40, Sergeant Tubb, P.C.O. Rifle Brigade; 24 hits and points. Third prize, \$10, Sergeant Murray, Volunteers, London; 24 hits and points.

Classes C, 400 yards, E, 600 yards, and F, 800 yards. Open to all comers and rifles. Entrance, \$1; 3 rounds at each range.

These prizes were presented by Lady Alexander Russell. Mr. McLean being absent, his prize was received by Mr. F. E. Ritchie, Hamilton, on his behalf.

(3.) THE "LADIES OF HAMILTON" PRIZE.

A silver cup, value \$100, or \$100 in money, at the option of the winner. This prize, won by John Rowe, No. 4 Co., 13th Battalion Volunteer Militia, was presented by Mrs. Isaac Buchahan. No. of hits and points, 18.

Class C, range 300 yards. Open only to Volunteer Militia and enrolled members of Drill Associations. Entrance, 50 cents; Enfield rifles; 5 rounds.

(4.) THE DRILL INSTRUCTORS' MATCH.

First prize, \$30, Corporal Tuck, P.C.O. Rifle Brigade; 15 hits and points.
Second Prize, \$10, Color Sergeant Givens, P.C.O. Rifle Brigade; 14 hits and points.

Class C, range 400 yards. Open only to (non-commissioned officers) Drill Instructors. Entrance, 25 cents; rifles of Government issue; 5 rounds.

These prizes were presented by Brigade Major Villiers, who said that he made the presentation with great pleasure, and trusted that they would form another inducement to the winners to make extra efforts in the training of Volunteers.

(5.) THE VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE CUP.

Class A, 200 yards, C, 400 yards, and E, 600 yards. The *Volunteer Champion*, or *Challenge Cup*. Open only to Volunteer Militia. Entrance, \$10. Each Volunteer Company sending marksmen, 3 members of each Company to shoot. Enfield rifles; 3 rounds at each range; 54 hits and points. Won by the Oakville Rifle Company, presented to Col. G. K. Chisholm, commander of the Company, by Captain John Brown, of the 13th Battalion, Hamilton, who, in making the presentation, said:—Considering the keen competition which existed at the shooting for this prize, the skill of the marksmen in each of the nine Companies against which yourself and the other representatives of your Company had to contend, we must admit that the Oakville Company obtained a great victory of which they may well feel proud, and for which they deserve the greatest credit. He had great pleasure in congratulating Col. C. upon the victory so ably won, and which was due in a great measure to the interest he had taken in the Volunteer movement, and to his skill, energy and perseverance. In future years at similar matches, and he was sure we would have many such, other Companies may carry off the valued prize, but the Oakville Company will always retain the honor of being the first Company of the first year of the Rifle Association, the winners of the Volunteer Challenge Cup, and he had no doubt they would guard their laurels, using their very best exertions to carry off the prize again next year, nothing daunted by the determination of the Hamilton Companies to pluck their blushing honors from them. The object in view in offering this valued prize for competition was to produce a spirit of emulation among the Volunteers of this Military District, and this object had been fully attained.

Colonel Chisholm briefly responded on behalf of his Company.

(6.) "THE HAMILTON MERCHANTS' " PRIZE.

Classes B, 300 yards, and E, 600 yards. Open only to Volunteer Militia and enrolled members of Drill Associations. Entrance, 50 cents; Enfield rifles; 3 rounds at each round.

The Hamilton Merchants' Prize was presented by Lieut.-Col. Isaac Buchanan, M.P.P., to the winner, Sergt. G. Wilson, No. 1 Co., 20th Battalion Volunteers, St. Catharines; 13 hits and points. The prize was a silver vase, value \$200, or \$200 in money. In making the presentation, Mr. Buchanan said this was a national movement, and he was proud of the part Hamilton had taken in it. He thought every man in Canada ought to be a soldier, either in connection with the Volunteers or the Militia force. Every class and every man ought to do his duty. He was the representative of the merchants, and he was glad to say they had done their duty. He presented the prize with pleasure, for Sergeant Wilson not only belonged to the merchant class, but he was one of the very first to join in the Volunteer movement, having belonged to the second Company organized in Canada

(7.) THE RIFLE DERBY.

Won by Mr. C. Thom, of Toronto—17 hits and points—was then presented by Major Magill, to Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, who received it on behalf of Mr. Thom, that gentleman being unavoidably absent.

Class D, 500 yards. Open to all comers and rifles. Entrance, \$2—half forfeit. Subscribers not shooting to be allowed a nomination, if made before the 13th October. The second best shot to save his entrance; 5 rounds; 10 per cent. to be paid by the winner to the Association.

(8.) CAPT. A. BROWN'S SILVER MEDAL.

Won by Sergt. G. Wilson, of St. Catharines; 16 hits and points; was presented by Lieut.-Col. Rolland Macdonald, who, in making the presentation, spoke very highly of Mr. Wilson.

(9.) MAJOR C. MAGILL'S SILVER MEDAL.

Was presented by Captain A. Brown. 6 hits and points. The winner, Sergt. Davis, No. 9 Co., 13th Battalion Volunteer Militia, being absent, Color-Sergeant Nixon, of the same Company, received the prize as his representative.

(10.) THE PRESIDENT'S GOLD MEDAL—THE CHAMPION PRIZE.

Classes C, 400 yards, and E, 600 yards. Entrance, 25 cents; Enfield rifles; 5 rounds at each range; 27 hits and points. Open only to Volunteers, winners, and second best shots during the match. The President's medal, won by Private John Rowe, No. 4 Company, 13th Battalion Volunteer Militia, Hamilton, was presented by Col. Booker.

FINANCIALLY,

The Council are happy to report a success. This is in no small degree owing to the characteristic liberality of the merchants and citizens of Hamilton. Col. Buchanan, M.P.P., headed the subscription list with \$100. The firms of Messrs. Buchanan, Harris & Co., and Messrs Kerr, Brown & Co., each followed with \$50, and others subscribed most liberally. The Council regret that the subscriptions from the District were not generally found to be of so encouraging a character; several causes might be assigned for the disparity between the city and outside lists; they rest assured, however, that when the objects of the Association and its usefulness become more generally known and appreciated, its means and consequent ability to offer a greater number of Prizes, will be increased in proportion.

The accounts for the past year show as follows, viz :

Cash received from members, subscriptions, donations and entrance fees, \$1417 65

Contra.

Disbursements as per accounts herewith. 1395 38

Balance in hand. \$22 27

In addition to the monies received, the three medals before referred to, were presented to the Association.

The Council in rendering an account of their labors for the past year, would recommend that as early action as convenient may be taken towards the completion of arrangements for the prize meeting of 1864.

The Council cannot conclude without acknowledging the courtesy of Captain St. John Mildmay, Secretary of the National Rifle Association of England, in transmitting to this Association, at the request of its President, copies of the reports, and other useful information from that now permanent institution, and would recommend that this Association consider the propriety of affiliating with the National Rifle Association of Great Britain, and whether, for a trifling outlay, it would not be desirable to secure the advantages accruing from such a connection.

(Signed)

A. BOOKER, *President,*
And Lt.-Col. Com't Vol. Mil., Hamilton.