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The Ottawa Sharpshooters:

The story of the Company and the men who served during the 1885 North West Rebellion, incorporating the Diary of Capt A. Hamlyn Todd.

Edited by John D. Reid

In late March 1885, in reaction to the proclamation of a Provisional Government by Louis Riel, thousands of volunteer militia soldiers set off for North West Canada to suppress the rebellion. This is the story of the Ottawa Company of Sharpshooters and the 53 men who served in the Company.

The story of the Company's service during 1885 is told. Then, through original research, the diverse and sometimes strange histories of the men who served are revealed. You will encounter Canada's most famous racehorse—Northern Dancer, impersonator Rich Little, Alice in Wonderland, a Senator who fell out of a train—and much more.



Transcripts of letters by Sharpshooter Herbert M. Jarvis and the Field Diary of Captain A. Hamlyn Todd, never before published, complete the picture.

This tribute was researched, compiled and published by members of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) from local sources supplemented with information from Sharpshooter descendants and relatives. Besides contributing to local history on the occasion of BIFHSGO's 10th anniversary, it honours the Company and the men on the 120th anniversary of the Rebellion.

A fascinating read. The biographies of the Sharpshooters, many of whom lived out their lives in Ottawa, point out interesting connections to Ottawa's earlier citizens, their activities and impacts.

Dave Bullock, City of Ottawa Archivist

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