

England
Isle of Man
1, 2, 4

THE VICTORIAN VOLUNTEERS

(Taken from a Military History of the Isle of Man)

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

After a long period of quiescence, interest in the Volunteer Movement was revived in the middle of the reign of Queen Victoria, and companies of volunteers were raised in all parts of Britain. Later, administrative battalions were formed, the system leaving companies independent from the standpoint of finance, but requiring them to assemble together periodically for the purpose of battalion drill and manoeuvres.

In the Isle of Man a detachment of British regular troops had been doing duty at Castletown for many years. In 1851, for instance, a detachment of the 92nd Highlanders was stationed in the Barracks at Castletown consisting of one captain, two ensigns and forty four non-commissioned officers and privates. The main function of these regular army detachments was to furnish a guard for Castle Rushen, the seat of Government, where also was the prison for the Island.

Major Francis Pigott was the first officer commanding the Administrative battalion of Volunteers raised in the Isle of Man in 1860.

The companies of Rifle Volunteers were the First Castletown, which existed until 1867, the Second Douglas which was attached to the 15th Lancashire Rifle Volunteer Corps in 1873, then to the 64th Lancashire in 1877 and after several more changes became the Kings Own Liverpool Regiment in April 1882 a small contingent of which served in the South African War.

The Volunteers continued to serve until the end of the 1st World War.

The uniform at first was dark grey with red facings, later scarlet with blue facings. A few of the uniforms are on display at the Manx Museum, the men must have looked extremely smart when on parade with their scarlet jackets, black trousers and helmets.

Several muster rolls of the Douglas volunteers have survived, plus also several lists for Ramsey and Castletown members dating from 1860.

On page 139 is a small extract from the Douglas Muster Roll.

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DEATHS

Wednesday January 22nd killed in the disastrous engagement with the Zulus, Lieutenant FRANCIS HARTWELL MACDOWEL Esq. M.D. Merrion Sq. Dublin and grandson of the late Rev. F.B. Hartwell formerly Vicar General of This Island, age 26 years.

From Mona's Herald March 12th 1879

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
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MUSTER ROLL OF THE VOLUNTEER CORPS

<u>Date of Oath</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Christian</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Chest</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
1864	SPITTALL	JAMES	5'6"		36	Advocate
1868	STEPHEN	ROBERT	5'6"		34?	"
1868	BRIDSON	JAMES	5'8"		21	Joiner
1869	CAIN	JAMES	5'6"		18	Tobacco Spinner
1871	ACHESON	SAMUEL	5'6"		17	Weaver
1872	KELLY	WILLIAM	5'7"		18	
1875	SANSBURY	JOHN	5'9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "		30	Painter
1878	KARRAN	FREDERICK	5'6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		18 7/12	Mason
1878	CHAPMAN	JOHN	5'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		17	"
1878	PROCTOR	WILLIAM	5'6"		25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shoemaker
1878	WADE	EDWARD	5'10"		21	Mason
1879	ROTHWELL	ALFRED	5'7"		18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Clerk
1879	COWELL	FREDERICK	5'9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		23	Tailor
1879	KERMODE	JOHN	5'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		17	
1879	BURROWS	WILLIAM	5'9"		27	Gilder
1879	WALLACE	JOHN	5'8 $\frac{3}{4}$ "		39	
1881	MORGAN	WILLIAM	5'4"		19	Tailor
1881	QUAYLE	ROBERT	5'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		19	Plasterer
1881	BRIDSON	JOHN	5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		24	Upholsterer
1881	MORGAN	LOUS	5'6 $\frac{1}{4}$ "		17	Tailor
1881	CLAGUE	GEORGE	5'8"		22	Mason
1883	MALEY	ROBERT	5'6 $\frac{1}{4}$ "		21	Plasterer
1883	KNEEN	THOMAS	5'8"		19	"
1883	WADE	EDWARD	5'7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		19	Mason
1887	KANEEN	ALFRED	5'8"	36"	19	Compositer
1887	MOORE	ROBERT	5'10"	39"	27	Labourer
1887	CANNELL	JAMES	5'8 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	40"	20	"
1887	SKILLICORN	SAMUEL	5'7"	33"	18	
1887	CORRIN	PAUL	5'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	34	33 6/12	Printer
1887	ACHESON	THOMAS	5'5"	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	27	Flax Dresser
1887	CHRISTIAN	EDWARD	5'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	Tailor
1887	DEARDEN	JOHN A	5'8 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	37 3/12	Surgeon
1888	POLAND	JAMES	5'10"	37"	19	Painter
1888	SMITH	WM. JOS	5'10"	38	18	Mason

MANX MILITARY HISTORY

Prior to the Isle of Man's Revestment in the Crown in 1765, any soldier serving there would be in the Lord's garrison manning the two Castles and the forts in Douglas and Ramsey. Not all were recruited locally, and the names of Pickard and Flexney originated as soldiers from "across".

These troops were commanded by the four Captains of the Towns, and they carried out what would now be police, prison and customs duties. However, when the Earl of Derby returned to England in 1651 to make his last stand against Cromwell's soldiers, he took with him some 300 men, including garrison soldiers.

A century later, it was not unknown for Town Captains to have a sideline in the "running trade", and Bridson of Douglas and Christian of Ramsey crossed swords with King George's revenue men when they entered Manx harbours in pursuit of smugglers. With the Revestment, the Lord's garrison was disbanded, and it is possible that some of them continued in the service of the Dukes of Athol elsewhere. The Town Captains continued their vestigial civic duties, but in 1777 these were assimilated into the new magisterial posts of High Bailiff.

By ancient law, the male population was liable to be called out by as Militia in time of danger. This began as "Watch and Ward" against plundering ships, and there was a Warden of the Day, who manned a hilltop, and a Warden of the Night, who was responsible for a creek, for each parish except the landlocked Marown. In the 16th century these Wardens seem to have become the Captains of the Parish and their best-known call to arms was when Cromwell's invasion fleet was on the way. Instead of defending the Island, most of the Parish Captains followed Iliiam Dhone and overthrew the Derby regime.

Watch and Ward continued until the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, but the nearest the Militia got to being mustered was in 1803 when the Governor ordered the High Bailiffs and Parish Captain to enrol volunteers who were willing to bear a pike in case of invasion. If any lists of this great-great grandad's army have survived in the Athol or Quayle Bridge House papers in the Museum they would be of value to family historians.

Today the duties of the Captain of the Parish are little more than attendance at Tynwald Day, but no longer are they expected or required to protect that August assembly. If you find an affluent ancestor described as a horseman, there is just a chance that he might be one of the "Four Horseman of the Parish", who escorted the governor to Tynwald Hill until 1822, and seem to have been assistant officers to the Captains of the Parish.

From 1779, on and off until 1811, there were various units of Manks Fencibles, raised in the Isle of Man but as part of the British Army. They were full-time soldiers, recruited in time of war while the regulars were overseas, and then disbanded. They were commanded by the insular gentry, such as the Taubmans of the Nunnery, the Quayles of Bridge House, and Lord Henry Murray, son of the Duke of Athol, but from time to time it was necessary to send recruiting parties as far afield as Glasgow, Manchester, Shrewsbury, Birmingham and Dumfries.

The Manx Fencibles were stationed in Scarborough and Whitby in 1796 and then saw active service in the North of Ireland until 1802. These events could be clues to family trees, particularly as it is said that some Irish refugees followed the Fencibles back to the Island, having learnt of its lack of Penal Laws.

The Description Book (Manx Museum MD 240/19) and the Court Martial Book (Manx Museum MD 240/13) have a wealth of information about "other ranks" in the Manx Fencibles, while B.E. Sergeant's "The Royal Manx Fencibles" book gives details of the commissioning and promotions of its officers. His "Military History of the Isle of Man" Sergeant also gives details of the officers of the Volunteer Infantry and the Yeomanry Cavalry, part-time local defence units on the British pattern raised locally from 1793.

In all these units the Manx legal profession seems to have played a leading part as officers. On one occasion Deemster Gawne was actually overpowered in Peel courthouse and the prisoners released. He returned at the head of his squadron of Yeomanry but was driven into the sea on his horse. Soon after, in 1823, his unit was the last to be disbanded.

After that there were no Manx troops until 1860, when Rifle Volunteers were being raised again nationally. Again lawyers became prominent as officers. One of them, J.S. Stephen M.H.K., was also Mayor of Douglas, so that in the Keys he would have been entitled to be addressed as the honourable, gallant, learned and worshipful Member. I also recall that when I was a foolish boy in the Home Guard in the Isle of Man, both my corporal and my colonel were lawyers. Perhaps Manx advocates are suited to the military life because they know how to charge.

In the 1914-18 War, the Isle of Man Volunteers which, uniquely in the British army had not been re-organised into Territorials, raised the Manx Service Company of the Cheshire Regiment, and this saw active service. Replicas of its badge are seen on the graves of ex-members, but for a full list of Manx people decorated or killed in that war, some with Dominion forces, Margery West's "Island at War" should be consulted. The wartime Manx newspapers are full of reports, often with family details, of servicement of Manx descent, forces, and this could be a further source for family history.

by Martin Faragher

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MANX NAMES

Extracted from those killed at the massacre of General Custer and his 261 men.

Published in the Tribune, July 6th 1876.

- Private CASHAN "L" Company, 7th Cavalry
- Private P. KILLEY "F" Company, 7th Cavalry

EXTRACTS FROM THE MANX FENCIBLES RECORDS

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Drummers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Joining</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Height</u>
John CAIN	25th July 1803	18 yrs	Braddan	5'5"
Robert GAIL	25th July 1803	18 yrs	Marown	
Richard VAIL	25th July 1803	19 yrs	Malew	5'
Thomas TEARE	27th July 1803	15 yrs	St. Johns	5'
James WALLACE	29th July 1803	23 yrs	Malew	5'9"
James CARR	6th August 1803	14 yrs	Co. Down	5'5½"
Thomas COLLISTER	25th May 1804	20 yrs	Braddan	5'7"
Thomas CAIN	5th April 1804	16 yrs	Rushen	5'2"
Joseph CARRON	11th April 1804	14 yrs	Malew	5'
Wm. PARKINSON	12th April 1804	15 yrs	Braddan	5'2"
Martin KENYON	14th April 1804	14 yrs	Maughold	4'9"
John KEGG	24th April 1804	15 yrs	Braddan	5'1"

* JAMES CARR 5'5½" age 14 yrs

Swarthy, dark hair, round face, grey eyes from Co. Down. Labourer. Joined Capt. Tobins Co.

THOMAS HUDGEON 5'5" age 22 yrs

Dark complexion, blue eyes, dark brown hair. Shoemaker from Rushen joined 30th Oct 1807. Capt. Wilsons Co.

HENRY HUDGEON 5'3¾" age 28 yrs

Dark complexion, grey eyes, dark hair. Labourer from Rushen former service 3 yrs. Enrolled by Capt. Murray 2nd July 1803.

THOMAS HUDGEON 5'4¾" age 24 yrs

Blue eyes, dark brown hair. Shoemaker from Rushen joined Col. Stuarts Co. 30th Oct 1807.

THOMAS LEECE 5'8" age 21 yrs

Fresh complexion, grey eyes, dark hair, from Arbory. Labourer. Enrolled Col. Stuarts Co. 16th Jan 1809.

* Details of the above taken from the Description Book of the Manx Fencibles.

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