



COMPANY COMMENT

Honourable Company of Freemen of the
City of London of North America
www.freemenlondon.org

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From the Master

I am pleased to report on the progress the Court has made to date in fulfilling our objectives and to share with you some of the challenges we face going forward.

As I reported in the last issue, one of our key objectives is to ensure our Company remains true to its roots while evolving to remain relevant and healthy in today's society. While this may not appear to be a challenge given our strong membership base of about 145 people, fewer than 50% of these pay quarterage, and fewer than 25% participate in our events – in other words, we currently do not have an active membership. This makes it very challenging to generate enough revenue to fund our charity, and to put on quality events that usually require 30 to 35 people just to break even. As a result, the Court is often left scrambling to twist arms and recruit guests at the last minute to make our events a success.

One of the strategies we have employed to address this challenge is to plan events that are somewhat unique and exclusive in the hopes they draw more members and particularly more guests. The recent evening with the Financial Times of London is a good example. More than 70 members and guests were able to meet and socialize with internationally experienced journalists, as well as with some of Toronto's most senior business leaders. And they did so in an intimate and beautiful setting with sweeping views of the Toronto waterfront and skyline.

Our forthcoming wine tasting dinner is another example. We were able to recruit French vintner Graham Nutter of Chateau d'Albas to present his wines, and Chef Paul Biggs of Bodega to create a special 5-course meal to complement the wine selection. The response has been so overwhelming that we sold all 50 tickets for the November 22 event in less than a week. We then added a

second evening for November 23, which at this writing has only 5 tickets left.

But not all our attempts have been so successful. We planned a very special afternoon of Cricket followed by a reception at the Toronto Cricket Club for September 14. While the event had to be cancelled because of inclement weather, it was also a blessing given the disappointing lack of interest from members.

What we have learned so far is that when we partner with other organizations and can appeal to a broader audience outside of our own membership, we have more success with our events. So we will continue to look for other groups and organizations to co-host events with in future, including our fellow British Societies in Toronto. If you have suggestions or would like to help with events, please contact our Events Chair John Smith at john.s.smith@sympatico.ca.

Of course, another way to revitalize the Company is by recruiting new members -- particularly active members who want to participate and make a difference. We began the year with a goal of recruiting 10 quality people to the Company who shared our values. I am pleased to report that we are more than halfway towards this goal with the addition of six new members in Nigel Napier-Andrews, Howard Berry, Winston Kassim, Jim Walker, Brian Smith and Judy Wingham. We have room for more, so please think about which of your friends and acquaintances might enjoy becoming a Freeman. If you need information about membership, please contact our Membership Secretary Neil Purcell at neilvia@rogers.com.

We are also developing a new strategy for our Company Charity as we believe it is one of the key reasons for people to join us and get involved in our events. I am pleased to report that our Charity Committee, led by Immediate Past Master

Martin Walmsley, has developed a plan for the Company to offer a yearly scholarship for Canadian students to undertake post-graduate studies at a university in London. One of the principles of this plan is that scholarship winners would be required to attend a Freeman event in London, and to report back to our Company about their experience once they return from their studies. While details are still being worked out, we expect to be in a position to finalize the scholarship very soon. I want to express my appreciation to Martin and the Charity Committee for their excellent work, which I view as extremely important to the future vitality of our Company.

Finally, I would like to point out that we have finalized the date for our 2007 Annual Meeting and Dinner. It will take place on Friday, April 27 at the National Club, and I hope you will put the date in your calendar and help make it our most successful Annual Meeting ever.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued support, and encourage you to send me your views and suggestions at davidMmoorcroft@aol.com.

David Moorcroft

Partners in War and Sport: The Worshipful Company of Bowyers and the Worshipful Company of Fletchers



Introduction

In this issue of Company Comment, the Honourable Company is bringing you the history of two livery companies who have been long-term partners since the dominance of the longbow during the wars of the middle-ages, its decline as a military weapon to its resurgence in sport: The Worshipful Companies of Bowyers and Fletchers. These companies are numbers 38 and 39 respectively in the order of precedence.

Their separation (and the separation of the Bowstring Makers, a Company that no longer exists), is interesting as they were and are still dedicated to manufacture and supply of integral parts of a single weapon. However this is not by any means a unique separation – one only has to think of the shooting supply industries to see a similar separation between the gun and ammunition manufacturers.

In the words of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in a poem contained in his novel “The White Company”, one of the verses reads.

“What of the Bow?
The Bow was made in England
Of true wood, of yew wood
The wood of English Bows”.

The long-bow and the arrows that it launched were the primary weapon of war in England and Europe from the Norman Invasion until well after the 100 Years War. There is clear evidence of the longbow being made and used in England as far back as 500 A.D., and the longbow is portrayed in the Bayeux Tapestry depicting the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

However, the “Great age” of the longbow is centred about the 100 Years War with France. The success of the British in the victories at Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt as well as many other battles, was almost exclusively due to the mastery of the longbow in accuracy, distance and lethal effectiveness.

Bowyers, Bowstring Makers and Fletchers were making bows, drawstrings and arrows in London and elsewhere for many hundreds of years before the formation of craft companies in London. Even after the formation of the City craft fraternities, Bowyers, Bowstring Makers and Fletchers did not seek craft protection for many years.



Formation

While there were bowyers active in London for many 100’s of years, their first mention in official records is the 1303 prosecution of a “foreigner” in front of the “Commonality of the City” for practicing the trade without first being made free of the City. In 1319 and 1332, the City Subsidy Rolls list a few bowyers and it is notable that one of these was a woman – a rare occurrence in such times.

With the English longbow becoming central to English Military strategy under Edward I and III, bowyers increasingly came to London to secure orders from the King’s Officers at the Tower of London. In the early 1300’s, they made longbows, crossbows, drawstrings, arrows and bolts without any craft distinctions. By 1342, the King’s Officers ordered the City to produce 2,500 bows (and one would presume far more arrows) and it is obvious that there must have been a significant number of master bowyers, bowstring makers and fletchers in the city to be able to meet such an order. The City of London was not unique in receiving such an order. Other cities in England received smaller orders. Again in 1345, the year before the battle of Crecy, the city supplied 1,200 bows, 1,000 sheaves of arrows and 4,000 bowstrings to the Keeper of the Tower.

Longbow men were as effective in decimating cavalry as in killing foot-soldiers. At the Battle of Crecy, it has been estimated that every 500 British Archers would have released 7500 arrows in the 90 seconds that it took the French Cavalry each time they charged the British lines and there were 15 such charges. With 6000 to 7000 longbowmen in the British force, the French and Genoese forces would have been faced with a real rain of death. During each French cavalry charge as many as 100,000 arrows would have descended. It is not surprising that they wreaked such havoc.

It also says a lot about the support logistics of the British forces. The two days of the battle at Crecy would have required in excess of 1,000,000 arrows, probably more than 50,000 long-bowstrings, and as many as 20,000 long-bows (as these were discarded for close combat)

All of this precedes the first ordinances regarding the Bowyers, the Bowstring Makers and the Fletchers. However, with such an industry active, and, in London, concentrated in the Ludgate area (later to be known as the "Bowierrowe"), it seems likely that one or more Fraternities existed with substantial power over artisans, even in the absence of a City or Royal Charter.

The "mysteries" of the Bowyers, Bowstring Makers and Fletchers were first recognized in a City Company in 1363. However, the Bowstring Makers and Fletchers broke away from this Company in 1370 to form their own Companies. The date of the formation of the separated Worshipful Company of Bowyers is recorded as 1371, the same year as the Fletchers. After this for a period of 59 years, there continued to be demarcation disputes (and one would suspect a significant number of street fights between apprentices) until a 1429 City ordinance defined their respective spheres of responsibility.

The break-up of the archery companies may well have been precipitated by the 1369 Royal Statute enforcing compulsory archery practice for all males and the resulting ordinances on all companies of freemen that were recorded in the City Letter Book for that year.

Gaining recognition and power in the City, the Bowyers entered the political arena and the first two Bowyers were sworn in as members of Common Council in 1376.

It was over 100 years before the Bowyers Company went to the next phase of formal recognition. In 1487/88, the Bowyers acquired their Coat of Arms and a set of coherent ordinances.

Yew has always been the wood of choice for British bows, and, by the late 15th century, the supply of high quality yew in London was becoming a challenge. Yew was of such a strategic value that British yew was kept as a strategic reserve and most of the yew wood for the British

longbow making was imported from France, Spain and Italy. Due to the need for foreign supplies of yew, it became expensive and in short supply. Certainly, less reputable craftsmen sometimes made substandard bows and claimed other woods to be yew. However, this wasn't the biggest challenge to be faced by the archery companies of the City. The other threat, and the one that would lead to the demise of the industry, was the invention of viable handguns. These started to be imported from Germany in 1517 and archery went into significant decline throughout the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558 -1603).

Despite the collapse in their trade, the Bowyers made strenuous efforts to maintain their prestige and sought to sustain archery as an exercise and sporting pastime.

In 1621, the Company obtained its Royal Charter from James I (1603 -1625). All the Company's original documents and many of its artifacts were lost in the Great Fire of London, but Charles II (1660 -1685) acted quickly to re-grant the Royal Charter in 1666, and the Articles, Orders and Ordinances of the Worshipful Company were approved by Charles II in 1670.



The Worshipful Company of Fletcher also have their earliest mention in 1371, eight years after the combined company was recognized. They had petitioned the Lord Mayor for independent status based on the premise that the common good would be better served by separation between the three disciplines (Bow making, long-bow string-making and arrow making). As the materials and techniques are essentially very different, there is some logic in this argument and evidently, in those times, this was persuasive. The resulting ordinance required that the "mysteries" should be kept entirely separate and no man of one trade should meddle with the other. This was enforced with a fine of £4 – a very considerable sum in those days.

The very first records of the company show the swearing in of Nicholas Benet and William Jerberge as Wardens and Master of the Company. The first known ordinances of the Company were issued in 1403. Those issued in 1423 forbade Fletchers to open their shops on Sundays and high feast days.

The Ancient Company of Longbowstringmakers



There is very little information on the London Longbowstringmakers. They petitioned for a City Charter in August 1416 and this was granted. One of the claims to the establishment of the Company was the assertion that many archers had died in battle as a result of faulty bowstrings. One supposes that it was due to the demise of military archery and the obsolescence of historic longbow string making



that the Company was dissolved in 1854. The remaining records are held in the Guildhall Library.

The Demise of Military Archery

When the archery craft companies secured their Royal Charters, the military archer was already being superseded by a range of early handguns, and the craft of the gunsmith was in ascendancy. While the accuracy of muskets, the speed of loading and the range were not to surpass that of an expert archer until well into the 18th century, the longbow lost its position as the long-range hand weapon of choice by the middle of the 16th century. By the end of the century, it was no longer a weapon of battle in Europe. The archer was still to play a military role, principally due to its ability to “rain down” on an enemy and the rate of fire (10 to 15 aimed arrows per minute). Coming out of the sky, arrows are hard to see and they were able to surprise an enemy and generate panic. Aboard ship, archers were again able to achieve considerable success and their bows and arrows took up little room, were light and could upset efficient enemy upper deck gun crews and commanders. However, the gun was to take over rapidly even though powder was and still is a serious explosive threat.



The ‘Tween Years

The 17th, 18th and 19th centuries were times when the whole of the Livery companies and London trade guilds were suffering from the onset of new production techniques that sprang up from the industrial revolution. As many trades changed from being skilled artisan led to industrial, so the Worshipful Companies had to change and take on a new role in city life. The Livery companies had always assumed the role of charity towards the misfortunes of its Liverymen and their families. So, as their trades died, they undertook growing responsibilities in the charitable infrastructure of the London and more widely in Great Britain.

The Bowyers were well set on an early course by James Wood who, in 1629, left his manor of Islay Walton in Leicestershire to the Company. This was intended to enable payments to a number of charities and to be used to acquire a Livery Hall in London. It is unclear why the latter was never undertaken and the manor was eventually sold in the early years of the 20th century and invested in the stock market. The former purpose included the establishment of 5 scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. These scholarships are still awarded today.



The Present

The principal activities of both the Bowyers and the Fletchers today are in the companionship of members, security and spiritual

guidance and support of charity. The Companies continues their active involvement in their civic and social roles. Both have active event programs for their Liverymen, Freemen and Apprentices

Both companies focus on the benefits of sports archery in fair competition. In particular, they offer help to and sponsor archery for the disabled. Both are also closely associated with the Royal Toxophilite Society.

A relatively recent find of special interest to those interested in the history of longbows and of the profession of archery was the discovery of the wreck of the Mary Rose in the Solent in 1979. This was the Flagship in Henry VIII’s fleet and was sunk in an engagement with the French in 1545. Amongst the many artifacts recovered, there were over 150 longbows. 130 of these were very well preserved and have been the basis for much research into the old war bows. Not only has this shown the details of construction but information such as the draw weight and aiming aids has been verified. A number of Liverymen were brought in to help examine and assess these bows, including a Past-Master Robert Hardy, who is better known as a leading actor.

Halls



While the Bowyers were provided with the resources to establish a Hall by James Wood in 1625, no hall was ever built or acquired. This remains the situation and the Worshipful Company uses the Hall’s of other Livery Companies for their Livery Dinners and other events.



The Fletchers have followed a similar course (although it does not appear that they were ever left a large enough legacy to undertake such a construction). However, this changed when they partnered with the Worshipful Company of Farmers to build a Hall. This was completed in 1980 and has become their joint “home” ever since.

The Farmers’ and Fletchers’ Hall is located at 3 Cloth Street and all external uses and all catering is managed under contract by Chester Boyd (www.chesterboyd.co.uk)



Links with the Honourable Company

Rex Williams is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Bowyers and one of the earliest members of the Honourable Company. It is with the great appreciation of your editor that Rex did much of the research on his Company and provided the inspiration to bring together his information and the Fletchers history.

Information about the Companies

Information about The Worshipful Company of Bowyers can be obtained from the Clerk, Richard J. Wilkinson, 5 Archer House, Vicarage Crescent, London SW11 3LF; email address clerk@bowyers.com and from www.bowyers.com. Information about the Worshipful Company of Fletchers can be obtained from the Clerk, Captain Michael Johnson, 3 Cloth Street, London EC1A 7LD; email address clerk@fletchers.org.uk; phone 011 44 (0) 207 600 2204, and from www.fletchers.org.uk.

This article was created from information provided by Rex Williams, and that gained from the websites of the Worshipful Companies of Bowyers and Fletchers, and of the Library of the Guildhall (for the Ancient Company of Longbowstringmakers). Rex Williams used the following sources for his information: Barbara Megson's "Such Goodly Company", Robert Hardy's "Longbow: A Social and Military History" and the "Charter and some other records of the Bowyer's Company, 1901".

**Upcoming Events****Wine Tasting and Dinner Evenings – A “Minervois” experience - French Wines****and Food Pairing - Presented by Chateau Saint Jacques D’Albas, Arthur’s Cellars and the Bodega Restaurant**

Location: Bodega Restaurant, 30 Baldwin Street, Toronto
 Date and Time: Wednesday 22nd November, 18:00
 and Thursday, 23rd November 2006, 18:00
 Dress: Informal
 Cost \$90.00 all inclusive

Lunch – Christmas Lunch and Carols with the St. George’s Society of New York

Location The Yale Club
 50 Vanderbilt Ave, Manhattan, NYC, NY
 Date and Time Saturday, 9th December 2006, 12:00
 Dress Business Suit
 Cost Approx \$110 Cdn
 Booking Contact Michael Charles in NY
design@mcharles.com, phone 212-758-1160

Annual Dinner and AGM

Location: The National Club, 303 Bay Street, Toronto
 Date and Time: Friday 27th April 2007
 18:00 reception for 19:00
 Carriages: 23:00 pm
 Dress: Black Tie with medals or a Dark Business Suit
 Cost: TBA

Other events are being planned. Please see the Hon. Co’s website at www.freemenlondon.org for up-to-date information on all events.

**Event Reports****Visit by the Clerk of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen**

On the second of August, several members of the Court hosted a dinner at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club (RCYC) for Mr. Colin Middlemiss, who is the Clerk of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames. Mr. Middlemiss, who was accompanied by his wife, was visiting Canada and took the opportunity to contact Court Warden Robin Braithwaite, whom he had met at the Watermen’s Hall during Robin’s visit to London in July. The Watermen’s Hall dates back to 1780 and remains the only original Georgian Hall in the City of London.

Mr. Middlemiss told the gathering that The Company of Watermen and Lightermen was established by Act of Parliament in 1555 to control the Watermen on the River Thames responsible for the movement of goods and passengers. Indeed it remains the only ancient City Guild to be formed and controlled by Act of Parliament. Even today it licences the Watermen and Lightermen working on the River Thames, the former being concerned with passenger transport and the latter with the carriage of goods.

The young Freemen of the Company are eligible to participate in the Doggett’s Coat and Badge Race, which has been held annually since 1715. This grueling boat race is held each July and goes along the river from London Bridge to Chelsea. The winner has the honour of wearing the scarlet coat, breeches and silver arm badge that are based on the original costume of 18th century Watermen.

The dinner at the RCYC was attended by Master David Moorcroft, Deputy Master Michael Charles and his wife Barbara, Honourary Clerk Gail Moorcroft, Past Master John Smith and his wife Sally, and Court Warden Robin Braithwaite and his wife Fiona. Mr. Middlemiss said he felt very much at home in the lovely environs of the RCYC with its charming tender service and its beautiful waterfront views of Toronto, and would long remember the Company’s hospitality. The Master thanked Deputy Master Michael Charles and his wife Barbara who, as members of the RCYC, had arranged a wonderful dinner at the club.

Information on the Company of Watermen and Lightermen can be found at www.watermenshall.org

This report was provided by the Master, David Moorcroft.

Summer Brunch

The Company moved its annual Sunday summer brunch to the Royal Canadian Yacht Club (RCYC) this summer. The RCYC proved to be a worthy successor, with about 20 members and guests enjoying the idyllic location and a

delicious brunch on August 20. The event was hosted by Deputy Master Michael Charles, who took members and guests on a tour of the facilities following the meal. Among the many beautiful yachts moored throughout the club, there were a number of Canadian-built Nonsuch boats that were present for a special regatta. New member Nigel Napier-Andrews, who is Vice-Commodore of the nearby Harbour City Yacht Club, arrived aboard his 27-ft sloop Peccavi, and after brunch took several members for a sail including Master David Moorcroft, Honourary Clerk Gail Moorcroft, Warden Agnes Chaitis, and Warden Brian Greasley. Other Court members in attendance included Neil Purcell, Robin Braithwaite, John Smith and Karim Kanji. Recently retired U.K. Consul General in Toronto, Geoffrey Berg, was also present with his wife Sheila. The Court wishes to thank Deputy Master Michael Charles and his wife, Barbara, for arranging the event.

This report was provided by the Master, David Moorcroft.

Cricket Evening

Due to several days of heavy rain, which had saturated the pitch, the Toronto Cricket Club was forced to cancel our much anticipated Cricket Match the day before it was to take place on September 14. The Match would have featured teams from the Toronto Police and the Toronto Cricket Club competing for our brand new "Honourable Company of Freemen of London Challenge Cup", generously donated by Immediate Past Master Martin Walmsley. The Company hopes to schedule another sporting match – cricket, polo or soccer -- next year at which time the Cup can be placed into annual service. Any member wishing to volunteer to help organize such an event should contact the Events Chair, Mr. John Smith at john.s.smith@sympatico.ca.

This report was provided by the Master, David Moorcroft.

Reception with the Financial Times of London

More than 70 members and guests turned out on October 23 to meet representatives of the Financial Times of London and to hear its North American Editor speak about the business paper's regional plans. Editor Chrystia Freeland, who was born in Alberta and has worked as a journalist in Canada, the U.K. and the United States, spoke about the impact of technology and globalization on newspaper publishing. Ms. Freeland was accompanied by her paper's Canadian bureau chief, Bernard Simon. The event was held on the beautiful 40th floor reception room of the Royal Bank of Canada, and was attended by many of the city's senior business leaders including: Barbara Stymiest, Chief Operating Officer of RBC; Roger Martin, Dean of the Rotman School of Business at the University of Toronto; and Jonathan Harris, Managing Editor of the National Post. The British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce was represented by its President Norman Morris. The event raised more than \$1800 for the

Company's charity. The Court wishes to thank Master David Moorcroft and RBC for hosting the event.

Report provided by Master, David Moorcroft



City of London Elections

Admission of Sheriffs

On 28 September, the Lord Mayor presided at the annual admission of Sheriffs in Guildhall.

The Sheriffs changed in seamless fashion and the Lord Mayor paid tribute to Alderman and Mrs John Stuttard and Mr and Mrs Kevin Kearney, who were a particularly effective team, both at the Old Bailey and in the emerging 'stand-alone' representational role on behalf of the City of London Corporation, which Sheriffs are now undertaking.

In their stead, the Lord Mayor welcomed the two new Sheriffs and their ladies: Alderman David Lewis with his wife Theresa, and Richard Regan with his wife Anne.

Article reprinted from City of London Members' Briefing, 29th September 2006 Livery Issue #49, provide by the Honourable Company's London Clerk, Mr. John White.

Election of the Lord Mayor

On 29 September, the Lord Mayor had the honour of presiding at the election of his successor as Lord Mayor.

Alderman John Stuttard was chosen by the Livery in Common Hall to become the next Lord Mayor of the City of London, and he will take office in the Silent Ceremony on 10 November. He will be supported in his new role by his wife Lesley.

Immediately following the election, the Lord Mayor hosted the luncheon to the Lord Mayor Elect in Mansion House, which was attended by the Court of Aldermen and the High Officers of the City of London Corporation to celebrate Mr. Alderman Stuttard's election.

Article reprinted from City of London Members' Briefing, 29th September 2006 Livery Issue #49, provide by the Honourable Company's London Clerk, Mr. John White



Lord Mayor's Travels

September Overseas Visits

The Lord Mayor visited Tokyo from 1 to 5 September, undertaking a programme of calls on financial regulators, bankers, the Tokyo Stock Exchange and senior business figures. He also made keynote speeches on legal services reform and the financial needs of global business.

He lobbied vigorously to increase international access for financial and legal services and promoted London at numerous meetings and events. The British Embassy concluded that the visit had been well timed. Trade and investment prospects are good but progress is still slow on regulatory reform and there are strong Japanese concerns over European Union recognition of Japanese accounting standards.

On his second trip to China this year, the Lord Mayor visited five cities: Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenyang and Dalian. He, along with Policy and Resources Committee Chairman Michael Snyder and a 65-strong City business delegation, met Mayors, Party secretaries and the Chairmen of China's powerful financial regulators. He lobbied vigorously about opening up China to UK financial services companies. He highlighted company-specific issues and successfully developed relations with China's major financial centres and emerging financial hubs in North East China.

His visit usefully promoted the priority areas contained in the UK-China financial services Task Force agenda, which includes London listings, development of the corporate bond market, venture capital and financial and professional training. The Embassy there pronounced it a most successful visit.

In his visit report to Common Council on 22 September, the Lord Mayor paid tribute to the work of the Public Relations Office in supporting his overseas visits, particularly Loretta Lui who has accompanied the Lord Mayor on all his far eastern visits. The media attention in both Japan and China was huge.

Article reprinted from City of London Members' Briefing, 29th September 2006 Livery Issue #49, provide by the Honourable Company's London Clerk, Mr. John White



New Members

Winston Kassim

Winston is the Head of Strategic Initiatives in the Personal Banking division of Royal Bank of Canada. He recently celebrated 30 years with the bank, where he has filled a number of key roles in private banking, branch operations, commercial banking and sales management. Winston lives in Toronto with his wife Kameni, and their three adult children. He is also a board member of the International Development Relief Foundation, a Canadian non-profit organization that is currently doing relief work in some 21 countries.

Brian Smith

Brian Smith comes from a long line of Brit Boosters – his ancestors having fought in the American Revolution for King George and the “Unity of the Empire” before seeking refuge in Ontario. Though he holds no grudge against the Americans, and enjoys a visit to the Boston States as much as the next guy, Brian prefers trips to England and the Continent beyond. He concedes to knowing nothing about herding sheep – though he has crossed London Bridge on his own – and will try his best to be temperate within the confines of the City of London. By day, Brian is a communications consultant in Toronto, whose principal clients are in the financial services industry. He is married to Judy Wingham, and has three children.

Judy Wingham

Judy Wingham, the "better half" of the above-mentioned Brian Smith, likewise knows nothing about herding sheep, but is fond of wearing wool garments, especially on trips to chilly old England. Although none of her ancestors hail from England, she is very fond of such British institutions as Monty Python, BBC sitcoms, The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, and Elton John. Recent empty nesters, Judy and Brian have just sold their longtime home in the suburbs to move into a downtown condo that is stumbling distance from the Company's events. Judy is a realtor, specializing in residential real estate. She is honoured to become one of the newest members of the Freemen, and looks forward to a long association with this illustrious society.

Jim Walker

After a quarter century of service as a senior sales and marketing executive at Canada's largest financial institution, Jim is now concentrating on his number one passion - wine. Jim recently founded Arthur Sellers and Company in order to bring excellent and difficult-to-find wines to Canada from Southern Europe, where he is a frequent traveller.

He holds a Masters of Business Administration Degree from the University of British Columbia. In addition to having served on numerous boards of charitable and service organizations, he is a Commandeur d'Honneur - Commanderie du Bontemps de Medoc et des Graves.

Jim is married to Helene Buisson, his willing accomplice in the pursuit of wine and travel. They have two daughters, Kate, 22, and Magee, 19



“Disabled”
by the late Lt Wilfred Owen MC -
The Manchester Regiment

Wilfred Owen, one of England’s finest war poets, was an officer in what is now The Kings Regiment. (The King’s Liverpool and The Manchester Regiments were amalgamated to form The Kings Regiment in 1958.)

It is timely to read again this poem, considering the comparatively heavy casualties both the British and the Canadians are suffering in Afghanistan, and the closeness of Remembrance Day.

Although we hear much news about those killed, we generally receive little information on the casualties. It continues to be difficult to find out the numbers and seriousness of the injuries. On past battle experience, it is possible to assume there are at least 5 casualties for every person killed in action, and a good number will be permanently disabled. Also experience shows that the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder can appear years later and will increase substantially the number of those incapacitated by their injuries.

Disabled

“He sat in a wheeled chair, waiting for dark,
 And shivered in his ghastly suit of grey,
 Legless, sewn short at elbow. Through the park
 Voices of boys rang saddening like a hymn,
 Voices of play and pleasure after day,
 Till gathering sleep had mothered them from him.

About this time Town used to swing so gay
 When glow-lamps budded in the light blue trees,
 And girls glanced lovelier as the air grew dim, –
 In the old times, before he threw away his knees.
 Now he will never feel again how slim
 Girls' waists are, or how warm their subtle hands.
 All of them touch him like some queer disease.

There was an artist silly for his face,
 For it was younger than his youth, last year.
 Now, he is old; his back will never brace;
 He's lost his colour very far from here,
 Poured it down shell-holes till the veins ran dry,
 And half his lifetime lapsed in the hot race
 And leap of purple spurted from his thigh.

One time he liked a blood- smear down his leg,
 After the matches, carried shoulder-high.
 It was after football, when he'd drunk a peg,
 He thought he'd better join. – He wonders why.
 Someone had said he'd look a god in kilts,
 That's why; and maybe, too, to please his Meg,
 Aye, that was it, to please the giddy jilts

He asked to join. He didn't have to beg;
 Smiling they wrote his lie: aged nineteen years.

Germans he scarcely thought of; all their guilt,
 And Austria's, did not move him. And no fears
 Of Fear came yet. He thought of jewelled hilts
 For daggers in plaid socks; of smart salutes;
 And care of arms; and leave; and pay arrears;
 Esprit de corps; and hints for young recruits.
 And soon, he was drafted out with drums and cheers.

Some cheered him home, but not as crowds cheer Goal.
 Only a solemn man who brought him fruits
 Thanked him; and then enquired about his soul.

Now, he will spend a few sick years in institutes,
 And do what things the rules consider wise,
 And take whatever pity they may dole.
 Tonight he noticed how the women's eyes
 Passed from him to the strong men that were whole.
 How cold and late it is! Why don't they come
 And put him into bed? Why don't they come?"

We remember those killed in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts involving both the Canadian and British Armed Forces, but the greatest scars are born by those who are brutally maimed at a young age by war, regardless of the side or cause for which they were fighting. This poem captures their predicament, and is still relevant today. It captures the desolation and loss of the badly injured young soldier who has aged before his time and will never again enjoy the pleasures of youth nor the opportunities of an unrestricted life.

Members' News

Thelma Wyatt

The Honourable Company has been advised that Thelma Wyatt has not been in good health for a while and that her condition is not improving. Having had a stroke several years ago which affected her significantly, she has continued to have Transient Ischemic Attacks (TIA), which, while normally transient and thus of no long-term impact, are having a cumulative effect. These attacks also appear to be increasing in frequency. We all wish Thelma well in her struggles with old age.



Thelma is in her 90's and, together with her late husband Bill, has been a tremendous supporter of the Honourable Company since its formation. It has been a few years since we have seen her at the Annual Dinner, an event that she never missed prior to her first stroke. Many members will have very fond memories of the days and evenings spent in the company of Thelma.