

# Military History Is Recalled By Finding Of Button

While working in the flower-bed at the front of the Bradford Presbyterian Church this summer, Mr. Harvey Curry dug up a small object which turned out to be a button off a soldier's uniform. A little rubbing revealed the number "30" inside a raised circle on which was the word "Cambridge".

Local veterans being unable to identify it, Mr. Curry wrote to the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto and received the following reply:

July 22, 1958.

Mr. Harvey W. Curry,  
Bradford, Ontario.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your inquiry re the button of the 30th (Cambridge) Regiment of Foot.

This regiment was formed back in 1702 as a Regiment of Marines, but in 1782 became the 30th (Cambridgeshire) Regt. of Foot and in 1881 became 1st Bn. The East Lancashire Regt.

The 30th was in Canada between 1834 and 1845. It may have returned later for another tour of duty out here. But the last British regiment left in 1871 which was before the North West Rebellion 1885. So no British Troops served in it. No British Troops went out in 1870 for the Red River Rebellion excepting R. Artillery, R Engineers, ASC, AHC.

I do find that the regiment served out here again during the Fenian Raid of 1866. It could have been that part of the regiment got up that way, or were there on the way up to Penetang. There was a unit formed at Bond Head on Nov. 8, 1838, under Capt. J. Dewson, known as the Bond Head Independent Co. which would be about that time when the 30th Foot were out here, 1834-1845. The 30th buttons of that period were of the same design but had "XXX" in centre, this was changed to "30" in 1875-1881 period.

I would like to get more details on the various exact dates of arrival and departure of the 30th, but have no history of the regiment on hand.

Hoping this information is sufficient. I am quite interested in buttons, and have a large collection myself.

Sincerely yours,  
W. A. Stewart,  
Curator.

Just how the button found its way to Bradford Presbyterian Church is still a mystery, as this church wasn't built until 1893.