Recruitment in Wolfville

A Project in Images

Canada did not conscript soldiers during the first phases of World War 1. From outbreak of the war on August 4th of 1914 until the introduction of the Military Service Act of 1917, leaving home for war was a voluntary action. Nevertheless, many Acadian students fought and died overseas. State propaganda, help from school leadership, and a war-time zeal on campus compelled Acadian students to enlist in the war effort.

Pictured is the Wolfville recruitment office circa 1917. The Wolfville recruitment office was located near the center of Wolfville, and was adorned with propaganda. The Wolfville Historical Society has created a reconstruction of the office near The Wild Lily store, in order to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the First World War.

Dr. George Barton Cutten, pictured here from the journal of Lillian Grant, was president of Acadia University from 1910-1922. Cutten was a staunch supporter of the war effort, and was even the chief recruitment officer for the province of Nova Scotia. Cutten was often absent from Acadia during the war, helping the recruitment effort. Cutten took a leave of absence from February of 1916 to the summer of 1917 to engage in a recruitment tour, and another break that winter to help repair after the Halifax explosion.

A number of propoganda posters are preserved in the Esther Wright Clark archives. It is unknown precisely how these posters were added to the archive. However, the most likely speculation is that they were donated by Dr. George Barton Cutten.

Most propaganda tried to encourage recruitment through instilling a sense of duty. The 1915 propaganda poster “Come and Do Your Bit” features a soldier beckoning forward expectantly to the onlooker. Similarly the poster “Are YOU in this?” portrays an onlooker to a diverse group of Canadians busy with the war effort. Both cases are a call to action to the viewer to help their countrymen in the war.

Acadia student embraced a wartime zeal. The following excerpt from the January 1915 edition of the Acadian Bulletin features both a list of enlisted alumni, as well as an instance of Acadians sacrificing their Christmas break to help the war effort.

ACADIA BOOKLET.

A very attractive booklet containing seventeen views of the Acadia buildings and surroundings has recently been issued. The Bulletin readers may obtain it by writing to the publisher, Mr. Edson Graham, Wolfville, and enclosing the price, twenty-five cents.

LECTURES.

The students have recently been favored with two lectures of a very interesting character, the first by Rev. W. Perves Smith who gave an illustrated lecture on China under the auspices of the Y. M. C.A. on Nov. 18th Under the auspices of the Science Club, Principal Sexton of the Nova Scotia Technical College spoke on "Scientific Research and its Service to Industry" on December 1.

OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

An Officers' Training Corps has been established at Acadia. Twenty of the students are giving up their Christmas vacation to this work. Under Sergeant Major Long, who was appointed by the Militia Department, the work began on December 21, and has been continued without interruption. Splendid progress has been made.

CONCERTS.

On November 27 the young ladies of Acadia Seminary presented "The College Girls' Edition of the Ladies' Home Journal." Miss Gaines, the director of the concert is to be congratulated upon its success,for all present spent a most enjoyable evening.

On December 4, the College Girls gave a patriotic concert, consisting of musical numbers, tableaux, and drills. The concert showed careful preparation, and was appreciated by all who were present.

On December 14, the Acadia Orchestra assisted by Mr. McKee, pianist, Miss Blanche Thomas, Reader, and a ladies quintette from the Seminary, presented a most enjoyable concert. Miss Langley, the director has devoted herself most untiringly for the past two years to the work of the orchestra, and in no concert before given has this work shown such splendid fruit. She is to be congratulated on her success.

WAR.

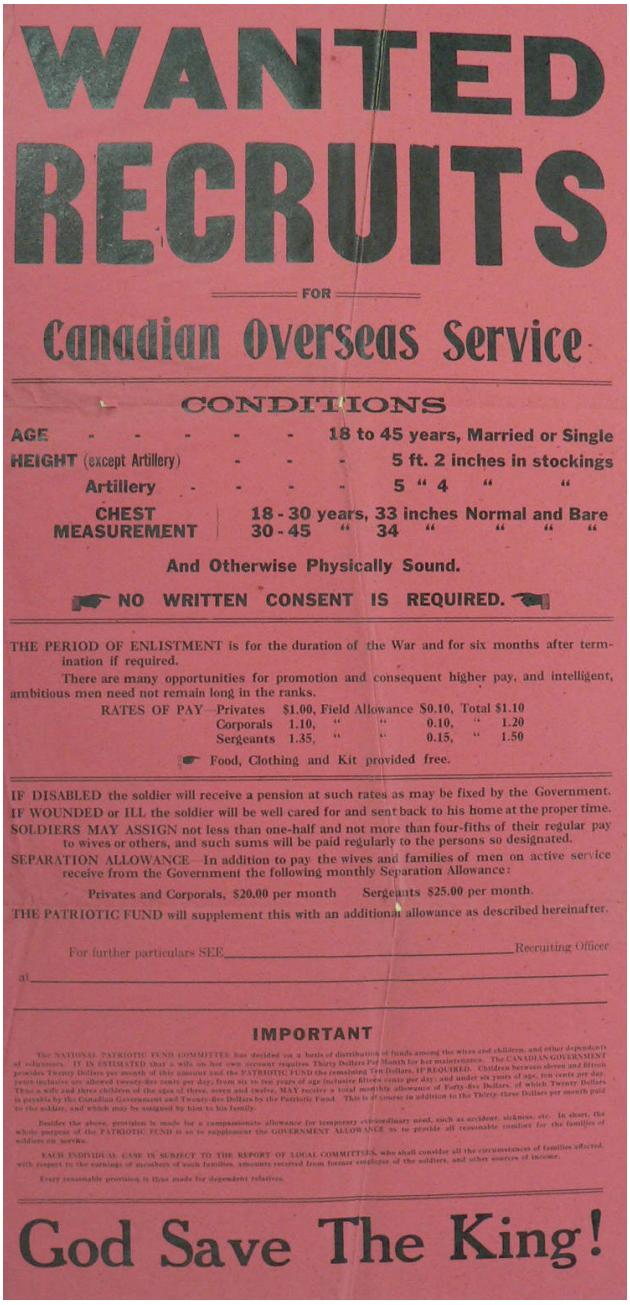
The following Acadia men have enlisted:—

	'91	J. H. McDonald	Chaplain (Capt.)
	'93	H. J. Starratt	Capt. Cyclists
	'97	S. L. Jones	Lieut. Princess Patricia L. I.
ex	'98	F. W. Wickwire	Capt. Army Service Corps.
	'00	C. J. Mercereau	Brigade Maior 4th Brigade
	'10	A. H. Chute	Paymaster, Clearing Hospital, No. 2.

ex	'11	Leon Archibald	Trooper Scouts
	'12	H. T. Reid	King Edward Horse
	'13	W. R. Kinsman	
	'13	R. R. Haley	Private Signal
A. C. A.		R. Simms	" "
A. C. A.		Le Vaughn Henshaw	Private Engineer
ex.	'14	Eric Leslie	" "
ex.	'14	Eric Forbes	" "
ex.	'14	M. Freda	" "
ex.	'15	G. McNeil	" "
ex.	'15	F. Nicholson	" "
A. C. A.		P. Simms	Private Signal
ex.	'14	W. E. Mellor	
ex.	'14	Cyril Dalmain	Private Cyclist
ex.	'14	Eric McDonald	Lieu. 12th Battalion
	'14	F. W. Bagnall	Private 14th Battalion
	'17	Durlin Fletcher	Private Ambulance Corps
A. C. A.		E. Chappell	Canadian Field Artillery
A. C. A.		K. I. Murray	Private Army Service Corps
	'14	W. C. Lawson	Lieu.
ex.	'08	J. W. Margeson	Paymaster 25th Regiment
	'18	E. G. Thurber	Private 25th Regiment
	'14	V. K. Mason	Sergeant Clearing Hospital No. 2
	'16	J. H. Feindel	Sergeant " " " "
	'18	W. R. Acker	Sergeant " " " "
ex.		Theo. F. C. Burnett Staff	Sergeant " " " "
A. C. A.		D. C. Keddy	Sergeant " " " "
ex.	'15	E. Hunt	Corporal " " " "
	'17	C. K. McLeod	Corporal " " " "
	'17	M. C. Gregg	Private " " " "
ex.	'15	R. E. Horne	Private " " " "
	'18	H. V. Lance	Private " " " "
	'18	L. Frost	Private " " " "
	'18	H. H. Powell	Private " " " "
ex.	'15	A. Goucher	Private 28th Regiment
	'15	E. Henshaw	" " "
	'16	R. R. Layte	" " "
	'08	J. S. Bates	McGill Regiment
	'13	H. R. Haley	" "
	'14	J. McKinnon	" "
	'14	R. Sproul	" "
ex.	'14	C. P. Ilsley	" "
ex.	'14	W. C. Fritz	" "
ex.	'98	N. McLeod	Lieu. Artillery

Home Service, Now on Duty.

'93	J. E. Wood	Lieu. Naval Service, Halifax
'05	Leon H. Curry	Lieu. Welland Canal
'10	Stockwell Simms	Lieu. St. John



WANTED RECRUITS

FOR

Canadian Overseas Service

CONDITIONS

AGE	18 to 45 years, Married or Single
HEIGHT (except Artillery)	5 ft. 2 inches in stockings
Artillery	5 " 4 " "
CHEST MEASUREMENT	18 - 30 years, 33 inches Normal and Bare
	30 - 45 " 34 " " " "

And Otherwise Physically Sound.

NO WRITTEN CONSENT IS REQUIRED.

THE PERIOD OF ENLISTMENT is for the duration of the War and for six months after termination if required.

There are many opportunities for promotion and consequent higher pay, and intelligent, ambitious men need not remain long in the ranks.

RATES OF PAY—Privates $1.00, Field Allowance $0.10, Total $1.10
Corporals 1.10, " " 0.10, " 1.20
Sergeants 1.35, " " 0.15, " 1.50

Food, Clothing and Kit provided free.

IF DISABLED the soldier will receive a pension at such rates as may be fixed by the Government.
IF WOUNDED or ILL the soldier will be well cared for and sent back to his home at the proper time.
SOLDIERS MAY ASSIGN not less than one-half and not more than four-fifths of their regular pay to wives or others, and such sums will be paid regularly to the persons so designated.
SEPARATION ALLOWANCE—In addition to pay the wives and families of men on active service receive from the Government the following monthly Separation Allowance:

Privates and Corporals, $20.00 per month Sergeants $25.00 per month.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND will supplement this with an additional allowance as described hereinafter.

For further particulars SEE _____ Recruiting Officer
at _____

IMPORTANT

The NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FUND COMMITTEE has decided on a basis of distribution of funds among the wives and children, and other dependents of volunteers. IT IS ESTIMATED that a wife on her own account requires Thirty Dollars Per Month for her maintenance. The CANADIAN GOVERNMENT provides Twenty Dollars per month of this amount and the PATRIOTIC FUND the remaining Ten Dollars, IF REQUIRED. Children between eleven and fifteen years inclusive are allowed twenty-five cents per day; from six to ten years of age inclusive fifteen cents per day; and under six years of age, ten cents per day. Thus a wife and three children of the ages of three, seven and twelve, MAY receive a total monthly allowance of Forty-five Dollars, of which Twenty Dollars is payable by the Canadian Government and Twenty-five Dollars by the Patriotic Fund. This is of course in addition to the Thirty-three Dollars per month paid to the soldier, and which may be assigned by him to his family.

Besides the above, provision is made for a compassionate allowance for temporary extraordinary need, such as accident, sickness, etc. In short, the whole purpose of the PATRIOTIC FUND is so to supplement the GOVERNMENT ALLOWANCE as to provide all reasonable comfort for the families of soldiers on service.

EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE IS SUBJECT TO THE REPORT OF LOCAL COMMITTEES, who shall consider all the circumstances of families affected, with respect to the earnings of members of such families, amounts received from former employer of the soldiers, and other sources of income.

Every reasonable provision is thus made for dependent relatives.

God Save The King!

Recruits were offered compensation for themselves and their families by recruiters. This poster "Wanted: Recruits for Overseas Service" shows both the offered wages, as well as the physical requirements for recruitment.

Are YOU in this war effort?

DESIGNED BY LT GEN SIR R.S.S. BADEN POWELL.

Are YOU in this?

PUBLISHED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY RECRUITING COMMITTEE, LONDON.—POSTER NO.10.

PRINTED BY JOHNSON, RIDDLE & CO., LTD., LONDON E.C.

Special Thanks:

To the archivists at the Esther Clark Wright Archive
Projects like these would simply not be possible without their continued support in both research and in the reproduction of archive materials.

Annotated Bibliography:

Associated Alumni of Acadia University. [January, 1915]. “Acadia Bulletin January 1915.” Esther Clark Wright Archives. 2009. Available from internet.
http://openarchive.acadiau.ca/cdm/compoundobject/collection/AAB/id/2986/rec/36
The Acadia Alumni student newspaper. This is a good resource for tracking Alumni and their participation in the war. The 1915th was selected to exhibit because of its impressive list of recruits. There are similar, growing lists in later issues.

Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University. “WWI Poster Collection: Finding Aid.” Esther Clark Wright Finding Aids. Published 2011.
http://openarchive.acadiau.ca/cdm/singleitem/collection/acadiaAnnap/id/2368/rec/1
This excellent finding aid with backgrounds on many of the posters found here at Acadia. It was put together by the team at the Esther Clark Wright archives. It contains a information on the theories behind how the posters became preserved at Acadia.

Gordon Simons. [1914-1918]. “Wolfville Recruitment Office.” Novamuse, Randall House-Wolfville Historical Society collection. Online. Available from internet.http://www.novamuse.ca/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/13663, accessed <November, 2014>
An excellent photograph of Wolfville Recruiting Office photograph. Original property of Gordon Simons, and accessed through the database Novamuse. This photo was used to anchor recruitment to a place in Wolfville, and help tie in my research with the research done by the Wolfville Historical Society

Lillian Grant. [1916]. “G.B.” Acadia University, Esther Clark Wright Archives. 2011. Lillian Grant Fonds. Online. Available from Internet, http://openarchive.acadiau.ca/utils/getfile/collection/GrantL/id/0/filename/1.pdf <November, 2014>.
This is the photo diary of Lillian Grant. There is little information on who she was, but she took many pictures of faculty here at Acadia. Including a photograph of George Barton Cutten, merely labeled as “GB.”

Parliamentary Recruiting Committee. [1915]. “Are YOU in this?” Museum Victoria, Collections and Research. Online. Available from internet.
http://museumvictoria.com.au/collections/items/1719023/poster-are-you-in-this-british-world-war-i-circa-1915, acessed <November, 2014>

There is an “Are YOU in this?” poster in the Esther Clark Wright Archives. However, it was not of the physical condition desired for this project. As such, a similar poster of the same type was used. The poster shows wide-ranging

Parliamentary Recruiting Committee. [1915]. “Come and do Your Bit.” Acadia University, Esther Clark Wright Archives. 2011. World War One poster collection. Online. Available from Internet, http://openarchive.acadiau.ca/cdm/singleitem/collection/ww1posters/id/50/rec/20, accessed <November, 2014>

A poster used because it is inviting, cheerful, and epitomises the desire to come and help the country. Its cheerful demeanor makes it an excellent example of early WWI visual propaganda.

Parliamentary Recruiting Committee. [1915?]. “Come Now, be Honest With Yourself.” Acadia University, Esther Clark Wright Archives. 2011. World War One poster collection. Online. Available from Internet, http://openarchive.acadiau.ca/cdm/landingpage/collection/ww1posters, accessed <November, 2014>.

A poster selected because it employs guilt in encouraging individuals into joining.

No. 4 Central Recruiting Committee. [19--]. “Send More Men.” Acadia University, Esther Clark Wright Archives. 2011. World War One poster collection. Online. Available from Internet, http://openarchive.acadiau.ca/cdm/singleitem/collection/ww1posters/id/24/rec/1, accessed <November, 2014>.

A poster notable for its dark color palate, and the gendered elements. The darker color palette is a little out of place here, as this was a poster designed near the beginning of the war. This poster is focusing on men, unlike “Are YOU In This”, which is aimed at a more general audience.

Unknown. [19--]. “Wanted: Recruits for Canadian Overseas Service” Acadia University, Esther Clark Wright Archives. 2011. World War One poster collection. Online. Available from Internet, http://openarchive.acadiau.ca/cdm/singleitem/collection/ww1posters/id/61/rec/69, accessed <November, 2014>.

This is a poster and primary information source. It contains information on payment offered to recruits and the requirements for recruitment. The poster was presented more or less as is without the information being copied into the blurb, in order to present the information in a more interesting and authentic way.