



Articles from

The Birtle Observer

April 10, 1885

In 1885, Major Charles Boulton led a group of militia known as Boulton's Scouts to help put down the North-West Rebellion. They saw action at Fish Creek and Batoche.

Below is an excerpt from articles that appeared in *The Birtle Observer* at the time.

The Birtle Observer, April 10th, 1885
Starting of the Volunteers - excerpt



Major Charles A. Boulton
Manitoba Archives

On Monday [April 6th], Major Boulton arrived in town to assume command of the mounted volunteer company, organized in this place, and in the Shell River district. The company consists of about sixty men, having a reserve of twelve, with four transport waggons. Only half of those who put down their names were required and much disappointment was experienced by the men whose services were not needed ... During the day the Union Jack and other banners were displayed from the various flagstuffs in town and shortly after mid day the sound of the bugle called the volunteers together, the transport waggons having already been loaded and the horses attached. In a few minutes the volunteers appeared, approaching from the stable, well mounted upon good horses and looking like men who knew the serious nature of the duties which they were about to engage in ... Drawing up before the Dominion Land Office, the company at once joined by the Major, mounted on a good horse, and having a sword by his side.

He made a short speech ... gave particular instructions that the men should take the greatest care of their animals, as the whole safety and success of the expedition depended on the strength and durability of the horses... a few hearty cheers were given, the volunteers said goodbye to their friends and to the large crowd assembled to see them depart ... with many wishes for success and safe return... Next to Major Boulton, the very great success which has attended the organization of this company, is due to the valuable assistance given by Mr. Pentland of the Dominion Land office. Mr. John McDougall, who has been through the Crimea war when quite a boy, and who has been many years on the Mounted Police force, appeared with a Scotch bonnet on his head, on a fiery black horse and with much skill and ability led the company in their various rounds and accompanied them across the bridge where he bid goodbye...