



Lieutenant Colonel J. H. ADAMS VD

[1827 – 1915]



The then Lieutenant Adams was a Founding Member of the Club in 1892.

Colonel Adams was elected to Life Membership possibly after 1910 and before 1915.

Joseph Hodson Adams was born in September 1827 in Scotland. His father was James Adams and his mother Mary (née Angus).

While his occupation is not known, he is believed to have served in the 72nd Regiment (Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders) as a non-commissioned officer.

He is believed to have married Jane (née Hodson) in the mid-1850s. She died in Brisbane in March 1913. Research has not revealed any children from the marriage.

It is believed that they migrated to Brisbane and arrived in the early 1860s and lived in New Farm.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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In 1860, a Volunteer Rifle Corps of militia had been formed in Brisbane. In 1867 this was split into two Companies – The North Brisbane Company, and the Fortitude Valley and Spring Hill Company (usually referred to as the "Frog Hollow Rangers").

In 1867 Joseph was one of first to enlist in the re-formed Brisbane Volunteer Rifle Corps (No. 1 Company) as a Colour-Sergeant and later Staff-Sergeant. The unit was formed under the command of Charles Lilley, the future Premier of Queensland. The men of the Volunteer Rifle Corps received no remuneration for their service, instead they received land grants, which were made available following five years' service.

His military career included:

- 1870 appointed Second Lieutenant
- 1877 Captain of No.1 Company, Queensland Volunteer Rifles
- 1878 On recommendation of Colonel Sir Peter Scratchley he transferred to command the newly formed Intelligence Corps of the Queensland Volunteer Corps. His role was to prepare military plans of the areas around Brisbane and introduce telegraphic signalling for military use.
- 1880 promoted Major and appointed to the Staff.
- Mid-1880s – President of the Scottish Rifle Club
- 1884 Camp Quartermaster for the military camp at Westbrook – introducing new cooking facilities for the troops and successfully using his own designed and manufactured ovens.
- 1885 to the Unattached List
- 1885-8 appointed Assistant Quarter Master General at Queensland Defence Force Staff Headquarters.
- 1891 to Retired List on age

Adams was awarded the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medal in 1902 (instituted in 1899 to recognise 20 years' service).

Has been described as "a grim old soldier who ran the commissariat". However, he was also remembered by Captain Ricardo as a stickler for process "...that no one got around or over him."; and by Captain Thynne as "...there being few others to whom the officers of the Defence Force were more indebted for the practical experience, coaching and training that he had given."

He is reported to have been very focussed and possessing wide-ranging skills.

His 1875 map of Brisbane was adopted as the Municipality's official map.

In civil life his career included:

- Assessor to the Brisbane Municipal Council
- Inspector and Secretary of the Boards of Health in Breakfast Creek and Milton
- 1879 Municipal Valuer for Brisbane – a position he held for many years.
- 1879 Justice of the Peace and served on the bench of the Police Court.

He also appears to have been a shrewd property owner and investor, for example between 1874 to 1887 he owned the Lord Alfred Hotel in Caxton Street. In the 1906 electoral roll his occupation was described as "Independent means".

While an active Club member, he did not hold any office in the Club.

Colonel Adams died in Brisbane on 10 April 1915 and is buried with his wife in Toowong Cemetery.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports, and sundry documents
- Queensland Military Historical Society