



Lord Strathcona's Shield for Canadian Schools in 1907

An artifact of the Edwardian Era has been carefully kept in the old trunk by an Anderson daughter; Ellie Anderson McBride. She as a child attended Westmeath S.S. 3, on the corner of Bromley and Malloy Roads in Westmeath Township.

This heavy wooden oak piece cut in the shape of a shield has on its face an elaborate copper plaque commemorating Admiral Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar, October 21st, 1805. The inspirational *"England Expects That Every Man Will Do His Duty"* alongside a bas relief of Nelson's flagship HMS Victory and a bust of Lord Nelson himself. At the upper corners are oak leaves and maple leaves.

"Made of Copper from HMS Victory & Foudroyant; presented by Lord Strathcona & Mount Royal through British & Foreign Sailors Society for Canadian Schools, 1907, E.R.VII", (King Edward VII), reads the inscription. Then a place for a student's name entitled; *"Warden of the Shield for this Year"* with the Latin *"Palman Qui Meruit Ferat."*

How did such a thing come into rural one-room schoolhouses throughout the Empire?

Lord Strathcona, the Canadian Governor General at the time, was a staunch British Colonialist and he was also the

President of the Canadian branch of the British & Foreign Sailor's Society. Strathcona saw this as a way to have all Canadian school children know the historical significance of the great naval hero Admiral Lord Nelson. This was also a fund-raising effort for the Sailor's Society to the Nelson Centenary Memorial Fund and the Society Secretary Rev. E. W. Matthews was making a grand tour of the British Empire. Newspaper accounts from Montreal, Canada and Wellington, New Zealand, tell of his tour publicizing the Fund.



A SUCCESSFUL MISSION.

(SPECIAL TO "THE PRESS.")

WELLINGTON, December 10.

The Rev. Mr Matthews having finished his tour through the North Island has left on his return journey to England via Australia, Honolulu, San Francisco, and Canada. As most people in New Zealand know by this time, Mr Matthews is the optimistic and energetic secretary of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, and he came out to New Zealand on a mission that was both philanthropic and patriotic. In both phases of his mission Mr Matthews has been successful, and the excellent work he has done through the inauguration of the Victory stall at the Exhibition and the distribution of the Victory charms and shields, etc., will have a more than evanescent effect on this young nation.

Before leaving the colony Mr Matthews called upon me and asked me to convey to the people of New Zealand through the newspapers I represent his hearty appreciation of the enthusiasm they have displayed in connection with his mission, and the many kindnesses everyone, from the Governor downwards, has shown him. In his visits to the various schools Mr Matthews was much struck with the brightness of the New Zealand children, and with their patriotism. Indeed, he said, there was a life and movement about them, and an enthusiasm for anything connected with the Empire that was quite remarkable. Even in their cheering he noticed a heartiness and an enthusiasm such as he had seldom witnessed elsewhere. The girls seemed quite as interested as the boys, and as the result of his visit he anticipates that some two thousand schools will before many weeks are past, have secured the Victory shields for annual competitive essays on some patriotic subject.

One other thing that struck Mr Matthews very forcibly is the high quality of our mercantile marine, and there is not the slightest doubt in his mind that New Zealand is destined to become a great maritime country. Britishers, he said, would be astonished when on his return he would tell them that there were 95 per cent. of British sailors serving under the British flag in the New Zealand mercantile marine.

Mr Matthews will finish his round-the-world tour by having a conference with the representatives of the American Seamen's Society, when the questions of joint action for the good of British and American sailors in foreign ports will be considered, with a view to economy and efficiency of administration. As the result of his mission, he states that considerably over one hundred thousand Nelson copper souvenirs will be taken in Australasia. Finally, he wishes to thank the Press of New Zealand for its sympathetic help and the very kindly way in which it has received him.

←The Press, Wellington, New Zealand, Volume LXII, Issue 12674, 12 December 1906, Page 3.

The HMS Victory



On 7th May 1765 **HMS Victory** was floated out of the Old Single Dock in Chatham's Royal Dockyard. In the years to come, over an unusually long service, she would gain glory and naval significance leading British fleets in the American War of Independence, the French Revolutionary War and the Napoleonic War. In 1805 she achieved lasting fame as the flagship of Vice-Admiral Nelson in Britain's greatest naval victory, the defeat of the French and Spanish at the Battle of Trafalgar.

The restored HMS Victory is now on exhibit and she can be toured at the Historic Dockyard at Portsmouth, England. <http://www.hms-victory.com/>.

HMS Foudroyant (1798), (French for thunder and lightning) was an 80-gun third rate of the Royal Navy, one of only two British-built 80-gun ships of the period. Foudroyant was built in the dockyard at Plymouth Dock and launched on 31 March 1798. Foudroyant served Nelson as his flagship from 6 June 1799 until the end of June 1801. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Foudroyant_\(1798\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Foudroyant_(1798))