

(two newspaper excerpts originally published in the December 2009 Newsletter)

Thorold Post, June 5, 1885, p.3:

"The funeral of Private Watson at St. Catharines on Friday last was the largest by long odds that was ever held in that city. The civic council and thirty other organizations attended in bodies, and the streets were thronged by thousands all the way to the cemetery. The pageant was most imposing, the remains being borne to their final resting-place on a gun-carriage. Large numbers from Thorold and other places attended."

Thorold Post, September 17, 1886, p.2:

"The unveiling of the Watson monument was performed Tuesday afternoon (September 14) between three and four o'clock. The crowd was, we think, the largest ever gathered in our city, fences, trees and every spot that could hold a sightseer occupied. The ceremony was decidedly tame owing to the poor arrangement of the platform, which was only about a foot high, altogether too low to enable the crowd to see or hear what was going on, and not a single cheer was heard from beginning to end. Hundreds of people in the crowd not did catch a glance at Middleton (commander of the forces that suppressed the Riel rebellion). The ceremony consisted in the handing over of the deed of the monument by Dr. Goodman, for the monument committee, to Mayor King, who called on Gen. Middleton to unveil the monument. The monument is an imposing affair, consisting of three bases, a disc containing the inscription, the cap, the whole surmounted by a statue of a Canadian volunteer at 'stand at ease' position."