

Josh Miller Is Joshing 'em Along

Colored Soldier From Owen Sound Poses as an Irishman

It may not be generally known to Owen Sounders, but their old friend Josh Miller, is a war veteran. Josh is a native of Owen Sound being the eldest son of the late "Father" Miller, who for many years ministered to the spiritual needs of the local colored population. But of recent years years (sic) Josh has been a resident of Toronto — occasionally getting into public print in one way or another. A short time ago a representative of The Sun-Times saw him in Toronto and he was looking very "fit" in a nifty uniform.

But while Josh is a soldier he is still "some little Josher," and he got off a good one at the expense of a reporter on the Toronto Star. He actually posed as an Irishman. Now everyone knows that Josh is an Owen Sounder and his brother "Bill" Miller, of the Bowman Garage, indignantly denies Josh's claim. Here is what last night's Star says:

When the reporter arrived at the gymnasium, where occupational therapy is taught by day and dancing is enjoyed at night, he met Irishmen of diverse creeds and accents and in a variety of color entirely unexpected. "Irish, did you say?" asked one veteran, "Well, you better talk to Josh Miller — he's our best bet in Irishmen."

Now Pte. Miller is a colored veteran and while it was in the reporter's mind that he might be a very eloquent champion of Abraham Lincoln and Southern Republicanism, it never crossed the scribe's thoughts that this soldier with the broad, sunny smile would claim Erin as his home. But he did. "Irish? Sure I'm Irish," he replied to the Star's query. "You bet I'm Irish. I was born at Smoky Hollow just outside of Dublin — I guess I've got the distinction of being the only colored Irishman in the whole C.E.F. I went over with the 2nd Construction Co. of C.R.T.'s" continued the colored veteran, "and while I'm listed as a colored Canadian I sure am an Irishman and I have never made any attempt to conceal the



fact”.

Owen Sound Sun-Times 1918 clipping, source: Sadie Tackaberry Scrapbook p. 121 PF123