

MAJOR JOE

Well did you ever come to know
about the deeds of Major Joe
he kept a profile that was low
but his heart beat loud and strong
Whoever wondered where to go
or if the word was "yes" or "no"
they'd just go ask Major Joe
and he'd sing to them this song

Chorus

What is fair? What is right?
Do you think you will sleep good tonight?
Is it time to run or time to fight?
You gotta know just where you stand
You might have guns to make the peace
but your words are how you show your teeth
so what do you say when you speak?
Come tell all that you've planned
to Major Joe, and then we'll know
how the rapids flow, which way to go

Joseph Wilson came to be
in Perthshire in 1818
he left Scotland at fourteen
for a fate that was not sure
In September 1843
he took over from his daddy
the free port of Sault Ste. Marie
as the Customs Officer

He very soon became the man
who sorted out time and again
all tangles where he found them
like a father to his own
There was no jail a way back then
so wrongdoers were sent to stand
inside the fence found on his land
'till Major Joe got home and asked ...

Chorus

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In the first year of his residence
came a visit from Chief Shingwaukonse
For three long hours the air was tense
as he questioned where Joe stood
In 1845 suspense came
with an American offence
when Theophilus aimed to make his fence
with some nice Canadian wood

Theophilus he coaxed and warned
but Major Joe just scowled and scorned
and left the American forlorn,
wood-less and amazed
Later that day as it grew warm
Joe crossed the river as was the norm
and when he refused to please conform
they jailed him for three days

Chorus

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In the 1860s Irishmen
in America called Fenians
planned to attack Canadians
to provoke the British crown
so Major Joe the Scottish man
organized militiamen
and he prepared them to defend
his beloved frontier town

With no attackers on the way
Joe had his men clean up and they
soon found a little wet cache,
a priest's keg full of wine
The men assailed their liquid prey
and soon they all began to sway
When Joe came back later that day
no soldiers could he find
just a bunch of Canadian boys
who could not answer . . .

Chorus

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