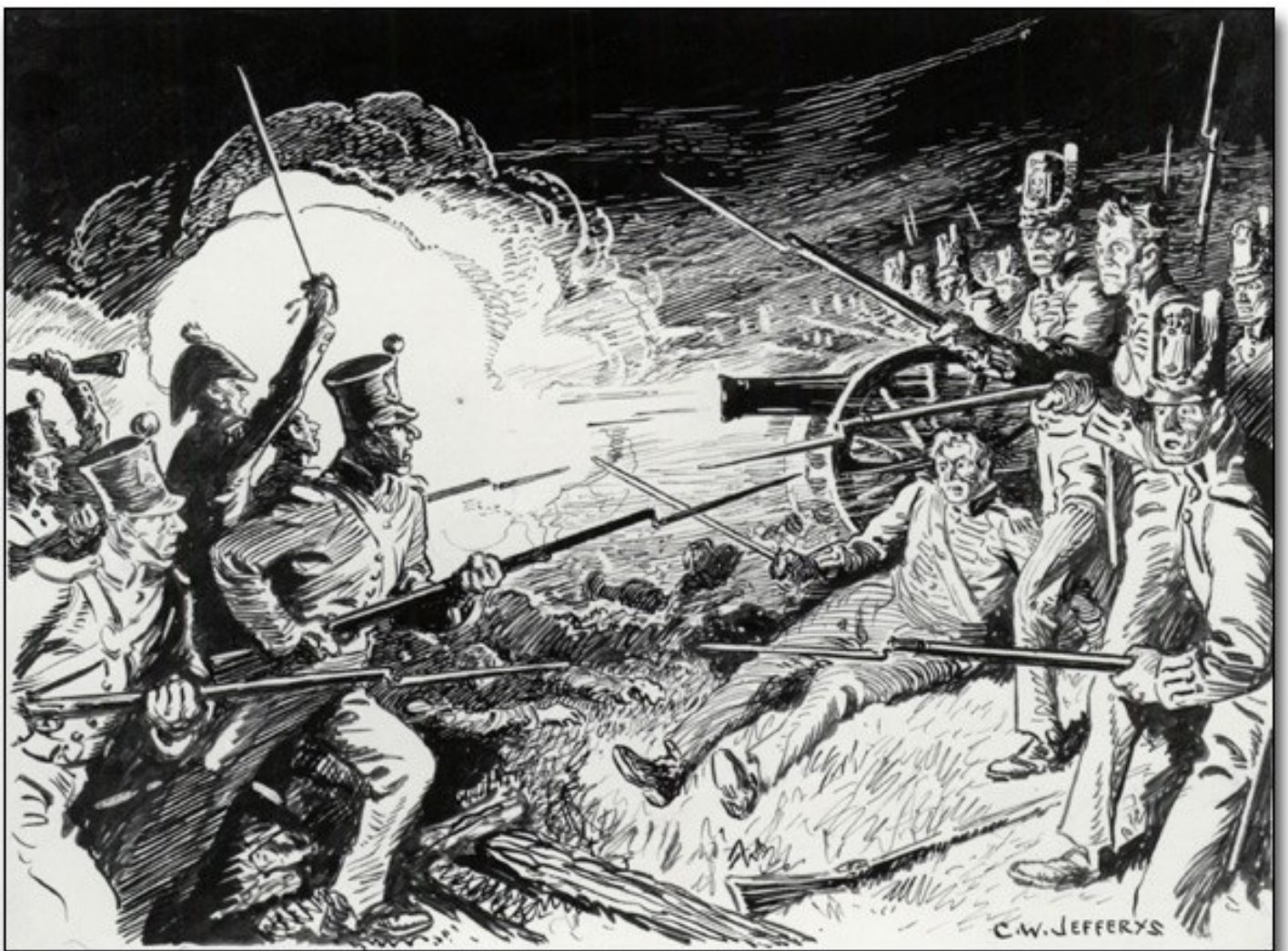


NINETEENTH ANNUAL HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

Sunday, June 9, 2013

THE WAR OF 1812 AT BEECHWOOD

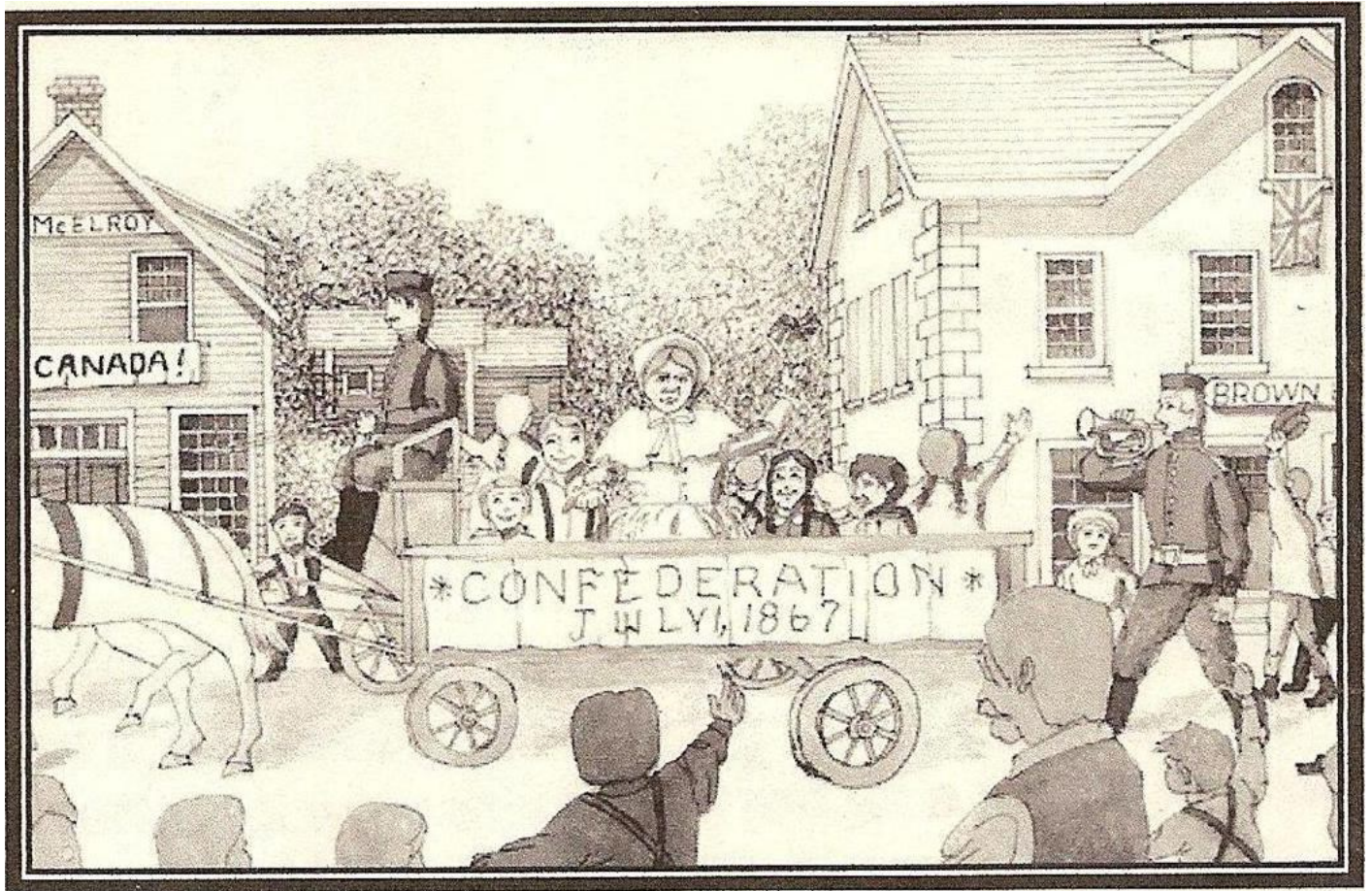


Fondation du cimetière

BEECHWOOD

Cemetery Foundation

History Told, Lives Celebrated



On the front page:

'The Battle of Lundy's Lane' by C. W. Jefferys, ca. 1921

Above:

This picture depicts an elderly Maria Hill riding in Richmond's Confederation parade on July 1, 1867. Painted by Becky Marr-Johnson, this image is from a section of a mural that hangs

The War of 1812 and Beechwood Cemetery

The War of 1812 was a brutal three-year-long struggle of combatants of many nations. For the United States, it was “a second war for independence” while Britain regarded it as “an annoying sideshow” to the Napoleonic Wars in Europe. The First Nations were fighting an “endless war” for their ancestral lands while the Canadians in the British colonies were defending their homes and families from the invading U.S. armies.

On June 18, 1812, the republic of the United States with 7.7 million population in 18 states declared war on Great Britain and then set out to conquer Upper Canada, one of the seven British North American colonies with barely 600,000 people. The conflict on land, lakes and seas caused at least 25,000 war casualties, with those killed in action and maimed by ghastly wounds. Nearly as many soldiers died from camp diseases such as malaria, typhus and pneumonia, even starvation, as well as dying from infections in receiving primitive medical treatment, long before Florence Nightingale improved survival from battle wounds.

The peace treaty was signed on December 24, 1814 in Ghent, Belgium, but the hostilities would continue on the North American continent until early March 1815 as news travelled slowly. With the regiments disbanding, the soldiers took free land throughout the colonies where they built their homes, schools and churches in the new settlements. These war veterans formed the militias - a ready-made army to defend the country, especially during the 1837 rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada.

Retired army officers, mostly, became our mayors, magistrates and MPs in our first Parliaments. The majority from the rank and

Maria Hill

Section 37, Plot 59 & 60

Throughout her long life of service to king and country, Maria Hill always thought of herself as “a soldier all through.” Even at age 90, she said her only regret was that she had “no sons to wear the British uniform and, if occasion called, offer his life for England.” She was what historians call “a daughter of the regiment,” raised from infancy in military traditions and lived as an army wife who followed the regiment into the war zones.

Born in Lancashire in 1791, Maria lost both her parents when she was still a child – a father who was an army surgeon in England and a mother who was remarried to a recruiting sergeant. Maria’s stepfather brought her to Upper Canada in 1799 and to Fort Amherstburg, near Windsor, where she married Sgt. Andrew Hill, an Irish soldier in the 100th Regiment of Foot in 1811. They had two daughters. She was one of the wives whom the army permitted to travel to the forts and armed camps where the women were given accommodations and food rations in return for caring for 600 men in the regiment.

After the American invaders were defeated at the Battle of Queenston Heights on Oct. 13, 1812, Maria met Laura Secord who was searching the battlefield for her gravely-injured husband. We know that Maria, a nurse, left Fort George and went to aid injured soldiers while “her husband [was] under arms among the rest” who were sent to fight the invading enemy. Playwright Sarah Anne Curzon, in her 1887 drama about Laura Secord, identified Maria as a “brave woman” who hid “her babe ... under a wood pile” and walked among the wounded. She described Maria as “one in whom the heroic blood ran thick and strong as e’er in times gone by.”

When the U.S. army invaded again in 1813 and occupied the Niagara frontier, British generals ordered women and children to withdraw to Montreal. Legend says Maria disguised herself as a man, donning a redcoat, to follow Sgt. Hill. Her identity was revealed when she was run over by an ammunition wagon and examined by a doctor. She was partially disabled for life. Yet, as a nurse, she was allowed to stay and help the surgeons cope with overwhelming numbers of badly injured soldiers at the 1814 battles of Chippawa and the bloodiest, at Lundy’s Lane.

Once the war ended, the Hills took land in the Richmond military settlement and ran the tavern in the town. Maria died in 1881 and is buried in a family plot

Sgt Andrew Hill

Section 37, Plot 59 & 60

Sgt. Andrew Hill was “a man of more than ordinary ability,” serving as an army leader during the War of 1812 and as one of the original administrators in the military settlement of Richmond, now part of the City of Ottawa.

Born in Fermanagh County, Ireland in 1785, he joined the army at 18 when British recruiters raised an Irish infantry unit, formally known as the 100th Prince Regent’s County of Dublin Regiment. He shipped out in mid-1805 for the British North American colonies with the 100th Regiment, which was scheduled for garrison duty at various forts and military camps throughout Upper Canada. His military acumen was demonstrated through his quick promotion from private to corporal in 1806 and sergeant in 1807.

He met Maria Woods at Fort Amherstburg on the Detroit River. They had two children: Hannah, born in 1809, and Margaret, born in 1811, the year Andrew and Maria married. Sgt. Hill also was stationed in the Niagara Peninsula at Fort George. When troops were called out to repel another American invasion, Sgt. Hill marched with the soldiers to Queenston Heights. This was Oct. 13, 1812, when Gen. Isaac Brock was killed by a gunshot, yet became immortalized as “the saviour of Upper Canada” with the defeat of the Americans. The battle became the most historically significant victory in terms of unifying the civilian population and military alliances in a national effort to defend the colonies. Both of the Hills were in the thick of the fighting on the Niagara frontier in 1813 and 1814 as the 100th Regiment moved around the battle sites such as Fort Niagara in New York state and Chippawa, near Niagara Falls in Upper Canada.

At the end of the war in 1818, the couple decided to take free land in the colony rather than return to Britain. The Hills came up the Ottawa River on the boats with 270 men, 63 women and 130 children from the former 100th Regiment, heading for the new townsite of Richmond and farming lots in Goulbourn Township.

Under the command of Capt. George Burke and Sgt. Hill, the soldier-settlers took on the formidable task of clearing 32 kilometres of new trail through dense forests to build homesteads - which were hastily-erected log shanties. Richmond Road is one of Ottawa’s oldest roadways. Sgt. Hill worked as a clerk in the commissary offices that supervised the military depot until 1822. The Hills also opened the first inn in Richmond, called the “Masonic Arms,” in

William Brown Bradley

Section 25, Lot 52N



The American Revolution and two wars shaped the life of William Brown Bradley who grew up in a family fiercely loyal to the Crown and fought in His Majesty's Forces to defend the British colonies. On his death in Bytown, Bradley was described as "not only a brave officer but a deserving settler" of Carleton County.

On Whitemarsh Island near Savannah, Georgia, his parents struggled to run their plantation during turbulent times in the 13 colonies while raising young Bradley along with his twin brother and a sister. After their father, employed by the British Army Commissariat, died during the American Revolutionary War, the family got a new father figure: Lieutenant John Jenkins, a professional soldier in the New Jersey Volunteers, who married their mother in 1781. After the eight-year continental war ended, the United States forced a mass exodus of Loyalists so Jenkins moved his adopted family to New Brunswick and started a new life as pioneers. Four more children were born on a farm and a large estate near Fredericton.

In 1793, Jenkins and Bradley joined the militia in the King's New Brunswick

Regiment, as colonists worried that the American republic would invade the Maritimes, capitalizing on Britain being embroiled in the Napoleonic wars. Bradley served in two more regiments, rising from the junior rank of ensign to captain in the 104th (New Brunswick) Regiment of Foot. He served with a half-brother in the infantry unit.

Capt. Bradley was commanding a 104th company in 1812 when the United States declared war on Britain and invaded Upper Canada. Fortunately, its armies suffered defeats in initial battles. Sir George Prevost feared in 1813 he did not have enough troops to defend Upper Canada from more American invasions so the commander-in-chief ordered a whole regiment, the 104th, to make a winter march 1,125 kilometres from Fredericton to Quebec City and on to Kingston. Six 104th Regiment companies, including Capt. Bradley's unit, took 52 days in February and March for the incredible overland trek of 554 men and supplies through severe cold and heavy snowfalls.

While the 104th mostly did garrison duty in Kingston for the war, various detachments were sent on campaigns. A *Montreal Gazette* obituary attested that Capt. Bradley participated in the May 29, 1813 raid on the Lake Ontario ship-building base at Sackets Harbor where his company sustained casualties. He also was with the 104th detachment at the surrender of nearly 1,000 American

Edward Sands Bradley

Section 25, Lot 52N

Born in Kingsclear, New Brunswick, Edward Sands acquired a commission of ensign in 1812 in the Nova Scotia Fencibles, likely through his father's military connections – it was commonplace for commissions to be purchased for young boys. His name appears in the regiment's monthly returns for 1815-1816 when they were stationed in Kingston, going on half-pay in mid-1816. He transferred in 1817 to the 99th Regiment, which had been renumbered from the 100th Regiment, until it disbanded in 1818.

When the family moved to the Bytown area, Edward Sands acquired land grants as a retired officer, and ran various mills. He also served as a captain in same Carleton County militia with his father as the lieutenant-colonel and brother Clements Bradley as a lieutenant during the late 1820s.

Bradley died Feb. 25, 1836, in Bytown and was probably buried in the pioneer

Louis-Théodore Besserer


Section 41, Lot 95N



The name of this soldier, politician and businessman remains significant in Ottawa, where his stately mansion still stands on 149 Daly Ave., and Besserer Street, named after this pioneer landowner, runs through the Sandy Hill residential district known for its 19th-century heritage homes.

Born in Quebec City in 1785 to a German military surgeon and a Canadian-born mother, he was a pupil at the Petit Séminaire de Québec, and then studied to become a notary. In his profession, he was described as "a man of good counsel and an alert financier, sound and rarely at fault in his judgement, who quickly won the confidence of his fellow citizens and built up a fine clientele."

When the War of 1812 began, Louis-Théodore joined the Lower Canada




militia as a lieutenant in the 2nd battalion of the Quebec City district. In 1813, he was transferred to the 6th battalion and later promoted to captain. The British regarded the Quebec City fortress guarding the St. Lawrence River as the “key to the successful defence of the colonies.” Besserer also handled special civilian missions for Governor Sir George Prévost.

Prior to the 1812 war, his older brother, René-Léonard Besserer, had been a colonial recruiter for the New Brunswick Regiment and took a commission as a lieutenant in the 104th (New Brunswick) Regiment of Foot, serving in the Niagara war zone, in particular the Siege of Fort Erie in 1814. Like many soldiers in the Crown forces, the Besserer brothers received land grants with Louis-Théodore choosing his lots in the township of Horton in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, while René-Léonard, who died in 1823, obtained 124 acres of “remote land” in the “sub-arctic lumber town” on the Ottawa River.

Louis-Théodore’s political career ran from 1833 to 1838, as a representative of the county of Quebec in the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada. He was one of the Patriotes of the Quebec region who, while supporting the Ninety-Two Resolutions drafted by Louis-Joseph Papineau to demand political reforms in the British-controlled colonies, preferred a more moderate approach. Besserer wanted to work through constitutional channels to achieve these goals, rather than stage an armed rebellion, as advocated by the Montreal Patriotes. He took a defiant stand against Papineau, but he was still branded a rebel by the British, and was forced to quit politics. The leaders of the rebellion “never forgave him his moderation.”

“Embittered by political events and distressed by the death of his first wife,” Angèle Rhéaume, Besserer retired to Bytown and the massive residential estate he had inherited from his brother in 1828, but didn’t develop it until a decade later. With shrewd land agent William Stewart, he turned the parcel into a huge subdivision of premier town lots, first called Besserer Place. Besserer gave land to various religious denominations for construction of a church, which he believed would attract more elite buyers. “In 1845, St. Paul’s Presbyterian



George William Baker


Section 50, Lot 44



George William Baker was “a man of varied attainments, ripe scholarship and vigorous intellect,” as his 1862 obituary attested. He served the British Empire as an artillery officer fighting Napoleon’s armies and represented the residents of early Bytown as a colonial official trying to preserve law and order in a pioneer lumber town.

Great Britain was locked in a global conflict with France, so its military might was focused on defeating Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte throughout Europe and on preventing foreign countries, such as the United States, from trading with its enemy. The Napoleonic wars spawned the War of 1812, as the American republic declared war on Britain on June 18, 1812, and tried to conquer its Canadian colonies. The “American War” was just “an annoying sideshow” for the British imperial command, which concentrated most of its troops, supplies and funds towards crushing the French war machine.

Born in Dublin, Ireland in 1790, Baker joined the British army at nearly 16 years of age as a cadet, rising to full lieutenant and later captain of the Third




Battery, Royal Regiment of Artillery. His field artillery company fought in the unsuccessful British expedition to Walchern in the Netherlands, from 1809 to 1810, and the artillery unit was posted to strategic British naval bases at Gibraltar from 1810 to 1812, and at Malta from 1812 to 1814. As the War of 1812 entered its third and final year, many of his British compatriots were shipped out to Canada as reinforcements for the regiments struggling to beat off the American invaders. British and American negotiators signed a peace treaty on Dec. 24, 1814. After the Napoleonic wars ended, Baker's foreign service continued with a promotion to captain and a posting from 1826 to 1829 to the Trincomalee fortress in Ceylon, now Sri Lanka.

Capt. Baker retired from military service in 1832 and emigrated with his family of seven children to Upper Canada. In 1834, at age 44, Capt. Baker became Bytown postmaster, a post he held until 1857 when he resigned. He was a community leader, serving as reeve of Nepean Township from 1842-1844 and representing Nepean on the Dalhousie District Council from 1842 to 1850, when he was defeated. He also was a leader in various district agricultural societies during the 1840s and 1850s. He was a shareholder in the Bytown and Prescott Railroad Company and a director of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Bathurst District. In 1849, he founded the Bytown Cricket Club whose gentlemen played matches on greens situated on what was then Barrack Hill, later to be the site of Canada's Parliament Buildings.

Perhaps his most challenging role was as a leading Bytown police magistrate during the Shiners War from 1835 to 1845, when armed Irish gangs of thugs terrorized French Canadian loggers and ordinary citizens. The Bytown magistrates were hard-pressed to control the lawlessness and sectarian violence that sullied the reputation of the town of 3,000. Baker showed civic leadership in trying to break the Shiners' "power to keep the whole town and neighbourhood in disorder..."

He pleaded fruitlessly to the British colonial governor for armed soldiers to be stationed in the village, which was still controlled by British military



Brigadier-General Ernest A. Cruikshank

Section 30, TG 86



Serious students of the War of 1812 will probably consult the works of E. A. Cruikshank, who made "an important, useful and enduring contribution" as a pioneer military historian and who was "a prolific and voluminous writer" on early Canadian history.

Curious tourists visiting national historic buildings or sites will look at the myriad bronze plaques, installed under Cruikshank's tenure, that impart knowledge about the "great men and events" in a nation-building approach to Canada's history.

Ernest Alexander Cruikshank was born June 29, 1853 in Bertie Township in Welland County and grew up on a farm near Fort Erie, which he ran as 'a gentleman farmer' after a short career as a newspaper reporter in the United States. He took municipal employment as an assessment officer and treasurer before seeking election as reeve of Fort Erie and warden of Welland County. He also became a justice of the peace in 1882 and a police magistrate for Niagara

Falls in 1904.

While his living in the Niagara region, so close to the historic battles of the War of 1812, was a catalyst for a passion for military history, it was serving his country as a military officer that shaped his view of history. In 1877, he had been commissioned as an ensign in the Welland 44th Battalion of the militia, rising through the ranks to become lieutenant colonel of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in 1899. In 1911, he transferred to the regular army as a colonel to handle recruitment and training of soldiers to be sent overseas during the First World War. He was assigned to the Western front in France in 1917, at the end of the war. He was awarded the honorary rank of brigadier-general when he retired in 1921.

During his military career, he was seconded for a year in Ottawa in 1908 as the keeper of military documents for the Dominion Archives and in 1918 became director of its historical section.

His historical studies led to his first published work, a history of the County of Welland, followed by *The Battle of Lundy's Lane* in 1888. Over his lifetime, he wrote and edited numerous books, articles and pamphlets in Canada, the United States and Britain.

Cruikshank is renowned for collecting and editing his nine-volume *The Documentary History of the Campaigns on the Niagara Frontier, 1812-1814*, which has provided primary source materials for many authors over many decades. Cruikshank was a prolific contributor to publications of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, Niagara Historical Society and the Ontario Historical Society. In 1935, he was awarded the J. B. Tyrrell Gold Medal by the Royal Historical Society of Canada, which had made him a fellow in 1905.

"For his indefatigable work digging through archives and libraries, through letters and newspapers, the historians who followed owed him a debt of gratitude," wrote David McConnell in a 1965 master's thesis on Cruikshank's life and works.

J. Mackay Hitsman


Section 27, E Grave 48



Photo from J.M. Hitsman, *The Incredible War of 1812: A*

J Mackay Hitsman is an esteemed Canadian historian who wrote what most experts "regarded ... as the best one-volume history" of this North American conflict, entitled *The Incredible War of 1812: A Military History*. Published first in 1965, this seminal study which was written from the British-Canadian perspective, rates as an "established classic" and constantly makes the top 10 best lists of scholars from Canada, the United States and Britain.


Born in 1917 in Kingston, Hitsman grew up in this Lake Ontario city with a heritage back to the 1675 Fort Frontenac, the 19th century Fort Henry and the Victorian Royal Military College of Canada. He studied at Queen's University receiving his honours Bachelor of Arts degree in 1939 and obtaining his Masters of Arts degree in history in 1940, writing the first scholarly thesis on Canadian naval policy. With the Second World War in full swing, he took the



Canadian officer training course, receiving his commission as a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Artillery. But his long-time infirmity from a spinal disorder prevented taking combat duty so he transferred to the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps and was posted to the National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa. He went overseas to London, England with an appointment to the Canadian Army Historical Section in 1943 as chief archivist and records manager. He retired from the army on medical grounds as a captain, then became a civilian archivist for the same Army Historical Section where he remained until shortly before his death in 1970. He received his PhD in history from the University of Ottawa in 1964.

As a military man and a scholar, Dr. Hitsman became the author of *Military Inspection services in Canada 1855-1950* in 1962; *The Incredible War of 1812: A Military History* in 1965; *Safeguarding Canada: 1763-1871* in 1968; and *Broken Promises: A History of Conscription in Canada* (published posthumously in 1977), which he co-authored with J. L. Granatstein. He also wrote numerous articles on military history in journals and magazines such as the *Canadian Historical Review*, *Canadian Army Journal*, *Military Affairs*, *Saturday Night*, and *Ontario History*.

In 1999, the Hitsman book was revised and updated by Canada's pre-eminent military historian Donald E. Graves who achieved his goal of giving it



For more War of 1812 activities
visit our partner, the Goulbourn Museum,
for their War of 1812 Tribute day on

STEP BACK IN TIME THIS FATHER'S DAY!

WAR OF 1812
TRIBUTE





Sunday, June 16, 2013 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at the **Goulbourn Museum**

COMMEMORATE THE WAR OF 1812 & OUR 100TH REGIMENT

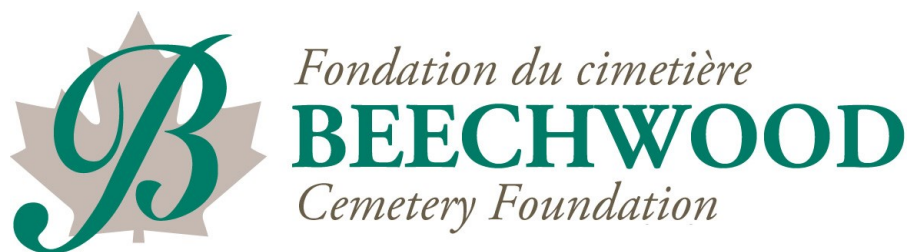
- Old-Fashioned Photo Booth • Free Crafts & Games • Horse & Buggy Rides
- Historical Demonstrations & Re-Enactors • New Exhibit Launch
- Barbeque • Silent Auction • Book Fair



2064 Huntley Road, Stittsville, ON, K2S 1B8 | 613-831-2393

    www.goulbournmuseum.ca

Canada 



280 Beechwood Avenue
P.O. Box 7025
Ottawa ON K1L 8E2

Tel: (613) 741-9530

Fax: (613) 741-8584

E-mail: info@beechwoodcemetery.com