

Cornwall Township Historical Society

Newsletter September 2013

www.cornwalltwphistorical.ca

Editor: Don McIntosh

Editor's note. This past spring the Cornwall Township Historical Society sponsored a historical essay contest open to all grade 6, 7, 8 students in the Township of South Stormont. The contest was to encourage research and creativity about the War of 1812 in the 200th year anniversary of "The Battle that Saved Canada".

The students were to assume the role of a wounded soldier and were asked to write a letter home to their family. The letter might have been written shortly after the 'Skirmish at Hoople Creek' on November 10, 1813. The letter was to be from a young soldier (12 to 18 years old) who lies with a leg wound. He is in the stone church at St. Andrews West that is being used as a military hospital in the War of 1812. The letter 'home' to his parents in Brockville might describe the Battle or his thoughts on the War etc. The following submissions are the top three entries.

All the students' work is reproduced here verbatim with no editing.

Olivia McDonald St. Andrews
School
Grade 7

Saturday, November 13, 1813.

Dear Mother and Father,

I take this opportunity to write to you while I lay in a cot whereas I rest my damaged leg. I have been settled in the village of St. Andrews West. The village I have been situated in is being managed by four divine young nurses who have been assisting me in the process of healing my battered leg. In advance to clarifying what occurred to my limb, I would like to truly express my regret for putting you through all this time of sorrow and grief.

It all came about on Wednesday the tenth when I was commanded along with approximately 300 additional militia men to engage the enemy at Hoople's Creek to maintain them at bay for the

time being. Restraining them merely worked for a short era of time. The opponent's army developed intolerance of us delaying their mission, thus it revolved into a wee skirmish. The conflict not yet ended at that juncture. The subsequent day we battled again at Chrysler's [sic] Farm. It was at this brawl where I was critically wounded.

The foes were livid and they were not being defeated lacking a war. They were utterly equipped: muskets, rifles as well as cannons. We clashed a fair quantity of time, observing numerous soldiers take their final inhalation.

I then was briefly deafened by a vulgar blast from a cannon thrashing the ground in the nigh distance. I myself was then struck by shrapnel from the fired cannon. However, I was privileged enough to not be as near in range to the explosion as my comrade, James Carter who unfortunately passed. I lay here with simply a broken ankle which

fragments have been removed of. I assure you I'll be alright.

Hope to return to you before too long.

Your beloved son Chester.

Kaitlyn Cloutier St. Andrews
School
Grade 7

November 11, 1813

Dear Mother and Father

I am deeply sorry that I have not written to you in a while. Times have been tough lately.

By the time you receive this letter you'll have probably heard about the Skirmish of Hoople's Creek. I was in that skirmish. It came as a surprise to me for we were just bringing some supplies to Lower Canada.

It was mid morning, our militia commanded by Major James Dennis, was carting supplies from Cornwall to Coteau du Lac. We had come a fair distance when we saw movement ahead, at the Hoople Creek Bridge. Some of us were ordered to get into the forest, others were ordered to stay and guard the supplies. Major Dennis then led us toward the creek through the forest. The forest was dense, it was very hard not to make any noise but we managed to get to a spot where we could see the Americans attempting to repair the bridge. We waited there for a good ten minutes, then Major Dennis ordered us to prepare for an ambush. After that it was all so fast and toward them, the Americans didn't even see us coming. After that I don't remember much, for I was shot three times in the leg.

But please don't worry, I'm alright. They brought me to the church at St. Andrews West. The docs there managed to remove all three bullets. I can walk on crutches now, but not that well. Perchance, they'll let me come home to see you both, God willing.

Also, I heard news from a soldier who was wounded there, that there's a battle going on at Chrysler's [*sic*] Farm.

Aren't the Chrysler's friends with Granny and Papa?

Your Loving son,

Walter

P.S. Wish Alice a Happy Birthday for me. Tell her I love her and that I'll be home soon. I promise.

Kara MacDonald Gr. 7 St.
Andrews School

Dear Mom and Dad

I am writing this letter to let you know that I am fine. I am at the Stone Church in St. Andrews West and it is being used as a military hospital. My only injury was to my right leg. The night my leg was injured we were exchanging gunfire at a small flotilla. I took a bullet to my leg. Gun boats made their way to Montreal.

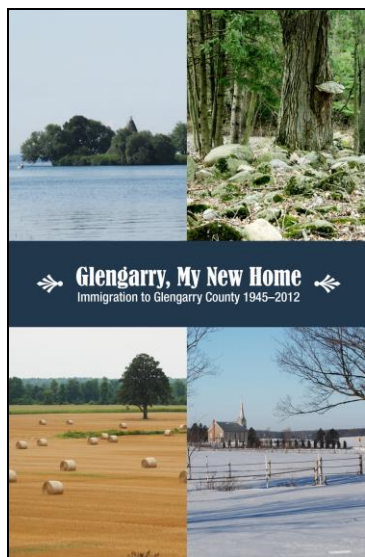
I was told that Wade Hamilton was the commander for the South and James Wilkinson at Sacket's Harbour on Lake Ontario. They were to meet at Montreal and stop all British settlements west of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers. They were stopped by Colonel Charles Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry in Lower Canada and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Wanton Morrison in Upper Canada.

The battle I fought in took place in a farmer's field, owned by John Crysler, a wealthy Loyalist and Captain in the Dundas militia. The field was between Morrisburg and Cornwall and along the shores of the St. Lawrence River. It was the American's last attempt at claiming Crysler's farm as an American victory. We defeated the Americans.

I understand what the meaning of war means because we are fighting to protect what is ours. I sure hope there won't be another war for a very long time. I will be sent home in a week and I can't wait to return to Brockville to see you and dad both.

Love your son Bernard Andrew
Maloney

Book Launch



The Glengarry Historical Society and Glengarry Encore Education recently launched a new book “*Glengarry My New Home: Immigration to Glengarry County 1945-2012*”.

The book is a collection of stories made possible by the story tellers who wrote about the 3rd wave of settlement to Glengarry County from 1945 to present.

Since 1945 there has been a significant migration into Glengarry County. Young women followed Canadian servicemen as war brides; the Netherlands Farm Family Movement brought Dutch farmers; those “from away” farmed the land; employment opportunities beckoned; the Quebec political situation created an exodus over the border; rural living, an ideal geographic location, retirement and a return to Glengarry roots attracted young and old to a new home in Glengarry. A collection of tales from ninety-five authors, who range in age from 9 to 90, is published in this limited edition of *Glengarry, My New Home: Immigration to Glengarry 1945-2012*. Their poignant memoirs tell the tale of the third significant migration to the county and that of the changing face of Glengarry over a period of more than sixty-five years.

Copies of the book may be purchased from the Glengarry Encore Education office at 7 Main Street, Alexandria, selected retailers or visit www.glengarryencore.com for more information. You can contact Robin Flockton @ Tel: 613-525-2483 Email: flockton23@hotmail.com

Welcome New Member



Céline Durand from Quebec City recently joined CTHS. In 1952 Céline was a boarder at the convent in St. Andrews where she came to learn English. She has fond memories of her stay and remembers classmates Mary Quinlan, Kevin Wheeler, Gerald MacDonald, Dorothy Lawson, Monica McDonald, the Camerons and many others.

Céline has an interest in history and is currently a director with the Historical Society in Loretteville, part of Quebec City.

She sends along some pictures of her former classmates.



Kneeling Madeleine Rodrigue. L to R Theresa Villeneuve, Céline Durand, Betty Benedict.



Front row: Johanna Grant and Catherine Lazore. Back: Julia Hopps and Céline Durand



*Below: Madeleine Rodrigue, ? Upstairs
Céline Durand.*



Graduation Night 1953: Front row: Betty Benedict, Mary Quinlan, Hilda Chisholm, Dorothy Lawson, Monica McDonald. Rear: Kevin Wheeler and George Maloney.

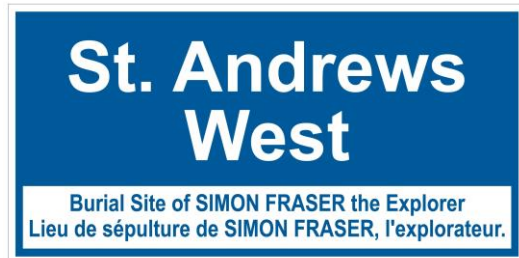


Group of students and borders in front of old high school.

Highway Sign Approved

Back in May of this year, CTHS sent a letter to South Stormont Council proposing that a sign be affixed to the St. Andrews hamlet signs on Highway 138.

The purpose of the sign is to indicate that St. Andrews West is the burial site of Simon Fraser the famous explorer. Council endorsed the idea but indicated that such a sign would have to be approved by Ontario Ministry of Transport since these signs are on a provincial highway. Good News! The Ministry approved our request for an enhanced hamlet sign which allows for additional text to accompany the hamlet of St. Andrews West name.



Sometime this fall we should see this enhanced hamlet sign along the northern and southern approaches to the village of St. Andrews along Hwy 138. This will make known that the village is the final resting place of the famous explorer Simon Fraser. It's another way of promoting the rich history that exists in this area.

Next Meeting



I hope members had a nice summer. We look forward to starting a new season in September. Our next meeting is Tuesday September 24 at 7:30 pm. Guest speaker is Thorin Gault, Doctor of Chiropractic. His topic is: The Pillars of Healthy Living for Seniors...and Everyone Else.

Feel free to bring a friend along.

Coming Event at Glengarry Pioneer Museum

A War of 1812 Re-enactment will take place on Saturday and Sunday September 21 and 22 from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Re-enactors will be there with muskets and cannons to perform tactical demonstrations on the grounds of the museum in Dunvegan, Ont.