

The Military Tradition Lives On In November 11

KIM MCINNIS

Director, Friends Of Crysler's Farm Battlefield

"A moth eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole, It does not look likely to stir a man's soul. Tis the deed that were done 'neath the moth eaten-rag, When the pole was a staff, and the rag was a flag." (Sir Edward Hamley (1824-1893), Crimean War (1853-56) Veteran. His response upon seeing the Colours of the 43rd Monmouthshire Light Infantry (1795-1815) hanging in the Monmouthshire church.)

Lieutenant General Sir Edward Hamley KCB KCMG penned those lines circa half a century after the War of 1812-14. An artillery man, he rose through the ranks becoming in turn a captain in the Crimean War, and then aide de camp to the commander of three troops of Royal Horse Artillery, Field Marshall Sir Richard Dacres. Hamley's words are no less relevant today than they

were then.

Any military person worth their boots will tell you that there is an understanding that history, heritage, tradition and honour are the heart and soul of any regiment or unit. Tradition and honour are the ritualistic glue that cohesively bind the soldier to his fellow soldier. They are the powerful trappings of the military.

To underscore this Sarah Katharina Kayss Phd. (War Studies Department at King's College, London) writes: "The traditional line of the different regiments in the British Army accounted for one of the most influential factors for enlistment. Most British cadets at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst repeatedly stressed that being an officer would go hand in hand with a 'peerless tradition', because they would automatically 'be-



In picture: Some distinguished participants

come part of an ancestry that is moulded by British history', regardless of the regiment that they were going to join. One cadet explained that service would not only inspire 'feelings of pride and a sense of duty', but also make 'regimental heritage and prestige a key recruiting pull' because many cadets felt that the regiments would give context to their role in the army. Cadets who brought the regimental traditions in line with their decision to enlist

regularly claimed that without the historical legacy of the specific regiment that they had chosen to commission into, they would have been less inclined to enlist."

As pointed out, kept alive through both informal and ceremonial gatherings of the regimental family, military traditions have endured throughout the ages. Not entirely then, can the more traditional gatherings be construed entirely to be the practice of the non era

The Military Tradition Lives On In November 11

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

specific fine art of “brown nosing” within the command. They held and continue to hold, a stronger purpose. In times of conflict there was the unspoken knowledge over and above the exuberant raising of tankard or whiskey glass in toast; the sobering thought that at any given time, there would be those whose continued presence in the room might cease to be.

The regimental uniform, colours, motto, badge, number; combined with the traditional social gatherings of personnel and their families whether active or retired all continue to have the same purpose. Like the moth eaten rag they were and still are symbolic of the ties that bind. They are the symbols of belonging.

There is perhaps no symbol so binding as that of the war or battlefield memorial...regardless of rank or position, those who gather in it's shadow are reminded of their vulnerabilities. Grim reminders of what has gone before and perhaps what is yet to come. A focal point. A hard scape constructed with emotion for emotion. A remembrance of

those who did not come home. Regardless of the innovations to and “sanitizing” of warfare over centuries, the results in terms of sacrifice have remained the same.

November 11th 2019 dawned bitterly cold, and possibly as bleak and miserable as the one in 1813, minus the sleet and rain. Regardless of the conditions, a dedicated group of approximately 50 gathered to pay their respects at the base of the Crysler's Farm Battlefield Memorial in memory of the some 900 British and Canadian forces and 2,500 to 4,000 engaged American troops who met on the field on that day 209 years since gone.

In attendance were descendants of the militias and regiments; politicians...MP Eric Duncan, MPP Jim McDonell; members of the Glens Association, Lt. Col (retd) Rob Dudas assisting founding event member Hon Lt. Col (retd) Jim Brownell in laying a wreath on behalf of the S. D. & G. Highlanders; the 1st CAV Sicily Motorcycle Unit Vice President Ron Suffel; War of 1812-14 re-enactment community representatives; the

Lost Villages Society and the general public. Once again members of the 2nd Lincoln Militia Artillery, comprised of John and his son A. J. Sek, and Brad Maves made the trek from Fort Erie to join crew member Robert Irvine in the ceremonial firing of the memorial's cannons. On display, “trailed” from Fort Erie was John's restored 1942 Canadian Military Pattern 15cwt Chevrolet military vehicle – GM made at Oshawa. A stark reminder of another conflict of not so long ago, when local boys signed up to do their duty. Many of which were descendants of the 1812-14 conflict.

The group in its march up the mound was accompanied by Royal Canadian Legion Kemptville Branch 212 Pipe Major Hugh Metcalfe. FCFB Past President Robert Irvine stepped into his roll as Master of Ceremonies. Glens Association/FCFB member/and a founding member of the event, Wm. J. Shearing CD gave a history of the day. Reverend Daniel Hayward/South Stormont Pastoral Charge presented his War of 1812 Prayer. Captain Mark Stubbs repre-

senting the 49th Hertfordshire Regiment of Foot (a British Regular unit stationed in Upper Canada at the time of the war) spoke on behalf of the re-enactment community. Carol Thompson Goddard (a founding member of the event) spoke on behalf of the Descendants of those who fought in defense of their homes. The firing of the cannons was marked by a moment of silence, followed by the Piper's Lament. Wreaths were laid representing Canada; the Province; The Indigenous Community; the Glens; the Re-enactment Community and the FCFB. The ceremony was closed with Pipe Major Metcalfe's playing of “When the Battle's O'er” (William Robb 1863 – 1909)...

...“March no more my soldier laddie, There is peace where there once was war. Sleep in peace my soldier laddie, Sleep in peace now the battle's over.....See the tall grass is there awaiting, As their banners of long ago. With their heads high forward threading, Stepping lightly to meet the foe.”

(Lyrics 1961 Andy Stewart)



President's Message

DAVE CONNERS

President, Friends Of Crysler's Farm Battlefield

This year unusual indeed, but we keep going

This year has definitely been an unusual one. So far you can throw any sense of normalcy out the window. Pretty much all aspects of daily routine and every day life have been turned upside down. It's all very humbling to see a scientifically and technologically advanced world/society brought to it's knees by a microscopic, brainless entity (COVID-19). Well, this entity has run a rampage especially through all planned social events, causing cancellations to large sporting events and concerts all the way down to smaller local summer events. Unfortunately, our event this summer, the re-enactment of the Battle of Crysler's Farm, was one that had to be canceled. In planning an event such as ours, there are a lot of people/things that need to be booked and the uncertainty around event planning, services planning and border crossings was too high to continue.

Since this pandemic has put a stop to our battle, I wondered what effects pandemics have had to past armies. Of course, around 100 years ago, there was the Spanish Flu that spread at the end of World War 1:

"More American soldiers died from the 1918 flu than were killed in battle during the First World War".

"The war ended with a raging influenza epidemic, spread through Canada in part by infected soldiers returning from overseas. The Spanish influenza epidemic, uniquely lethal in attacking

young, healthy bodies, killed at least 20 million people worldwide, including an estimated 50,000 Canadians. Canada's flu dead included soldiers who had survived the fighting overseas only to succumb to illness once in Canada and thousands of family members who welcomed them home but perished soon after their arrival.

The loss of so many Canadians had a profound social and economic impact on a country that had already suffered 60,000 war dead. The combined death toll significantly reduced the workforce. It left thousands of families without a primary wage earner and orphaned thousands of children.

In attempting to halt the spread of the disease, many local governments shut down non-essential services. Provinces imposed quarantines and protective masks were required in pub-

lic places. The epidemic led directly to the formation of the Federal Department of Health in 1919."

Around 200 years ago, shortly after Crysler's Farm, there was a cholera pandemic that effected the British army:

"The first cholera pandemic, began in Bengal, and then spread across India by 1820. Hundreds of thousands of Indians and ten thousand British troops died during this pandemic. The cholera outbreak extended as far as China, Indonesia (where more than 100,000 people succumbed on the island of Java alone) and the Caspian Sea in Europe, before receding."

The COVID-19 pandemic, likes others before it, will come to an end and this fact gives us promise that our battle re-enactment will continue at a future date, so stay tuned!



Powder Horn Raffle

DAVE CONNERS

President, Friends Of Crysler's Farm Battlefield



In picture: John Carruthers and raffle winner Volker Gruetzner

2019 saw another generous donation to the Friends of Crysler's Farm by one of its most passionate supporters, John Carruthers Of Morrisburg, Ontario. One of many crafts that John works on and excels in is carving, specifically engravings on cow horns, also known

as scrimshaw. To help the Friends Of Crysler's Farm raise funds for their work, John donated a piece of his work, a powder horn with scrimshaw, to be raffled off.

Scrimshaw is scrollwork, engravings, and carvings done in bone or ivory. Typically it refers to the



artwork created by whalers, engraved on the by-products of whales, such as bones or cartilage. Scrimshaw essentially was a leisure activity for whalers. Because the work of whaling was very dangerous at the best of times, whalers were unable to work at night. This gave them a great deal more free time than other sailors. While scrimshaw is rarely done on whale bone these days, it is still practiced by a few artists. Common modern materials are, ivory (elephant, fossil, walrus), hippo tusk, warthog ivory, buffalo horn, giraffe bone and cattle horn.

The donated powder horn fit in nicely with the Friends Of Crysler's Farm

era as powder horns were commonly used right up until the war of 1812. Powder horns have been obsolete for about a century and a half now. During the era of muzzle-loading weapons, replaced by cartridge firearms in the late 1860s, a powder horn was a necessary accessory for the hunter or soldier. The horn would contain the black powder necessary for loading the gun.

Raffle tickets were sold throughout the summer and the winning ticket was drawn at the Friends Of Crysler's Farm annual fundraising dinner in September 2019. The winner of the 2019 Powder Horn raffle was a local man from Morrisburg, Volker Gruetzner.



Dinner With Friends

CAROL GODDARD

Director, Friends Of Crysler's Farm

The Robin Morris Memorial Dinner was held on September 22, 2019 at the Morrisburg Legion with Avonmore resident Murray Barkley speaking to the almost 50 people on the effect of the War of 1812-14 on the development of the Ontario and Canadian identity.

The fundraising dinner is named in honour of Robin Morris, a found-

er of the Friends of the Crysler Farm battlefield, who was instrumental in the formation of the Friends of the Crysler Farm Battlefield which serves to protect and preserve the history of this pivotal War of 1812 battle.

President Dave Connors drew the winning ticket for a hand-crafted powder horn donation by John Car-

ruthers won by Volker Gruetzner of Morrisburg. Connor's was pleased to thank the many people who came to the event, those who donated items for the silent auction, with a special thank you to John Carruthers who donated the powder horn and Murray Barkley for his information and entertaining presentation. Carolyn Thompson Goddard, UE



In picture: President - David Connors, Speaker - Murray Barkley



The Battle of Crysler's Farm at Dunvegan's War of 1812 Education Day

JIM MULLIN

Director, Friends Of Crysler's Farm Battlefield



In picture: Bob Irvine at cannon

Dunvegan, Ontario – The Battle of Crysler's Farm was just one of eighteen stations scattered throughout the Glengarry Pioneer Museum, providing hands-on glimpses of everyday life during the War of 1812 conflict.

Almost 300 grade seven and eight students from five local schools from Glengarry and Prescott Counties, spent a full day at the museum on a spectacular warm, sunny Friday this past September. The Glengarry Pioneer Museum's War of 1812 themed education day offered

to local schools is a complimentary addition to their yearly War of 1812 living history weekend, which was celebrating its 10th year.

The Friends of Crysler's Farm have been advocates by providing an outreach opportunity to the Glengarry Pioneer Museum by shining a light on the Battle that saved Canada. This year, Bob Irvine helped to provide an exciting look at the elements of artillery by showcasing the six pound cannon from Upper Canada Village. Using the geographical context from the Battlefield map, it

gave students the opportunity to visualize that this important battlefield was not that far away and the looming threat of invasion was at our doorstep.

Over the weekend, the Friends of Crysler's Farm was among a number of regional community museums and historic sites to help make up the Heritage Highway, to celebrate our local, regional history. Hard-working volunteers from Crysler's Farm Battlefield were on hand

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Raising Awareness Locally

DAVE CONNERS

President, Friends Of Chrysler's Farm Battlefield

The friends of Chrysler's Farm Battlefield information booth was out on tour again during the summer of 2019. The touring booth is designed to bring all of the interesting information around the battle of Chrysler's farm out into different areas of the public. Each year different venues or events are identified as locations that would be good to take the travelling booth. It was decided that for 2019, local events would be attended in order to make known the Battle of Chrysler's Farm to the people and municipalities right next door. The first event attended was held at the Morrisburg waterfront and was called "it's all about the river". There was very good attendance and in-

terest in the information booth. Due to the sweltering heat, surprisingly nobody wanted to try on the wool soldier jackets. Jump to September for the next two events where the information booth was set up. The first event in September was the Fall Fair weekend at Upper Canada Village. It was a very busy weekend and our booth benefitted by many people coming by to visit as well as purchasing some of our Powder horn tickets, overall a good weekend. At the end of September our booth travelled to Dunvegan and attended the battle of Glengarry weekend. There, we had a good time and met with many familiar faces from the re-enactment community. December 1 brought the

booth to another local historic event called 'Tales of the Seaway'. It was held in Iroquois and was an event that brought many local historical groups together for an afternoon. It was well attended by many local people and we succeeded in raising local awareness of our group, The Friends of Chrysler's Farm Battlefield.

The booth's final stop of the year was at the Heritage Fair Held in the Cornwall Square Shopping center. We were very pleasantly surprised at the volume of people that came by and the ones that showed great interest.

Thanks to Kim, Les, John and everyone else who came out to help man the information booth.



In picture: John Carruthers and Kim McInnes



The Battle of Crysler's Farm at Dunvegan's War of 1812 Education Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

both days talking to the public and sharing history to enthusiasts from across the region and abroad.

On behalf of the Glengarry Pioneer Museum, I would like to thank the Friends of Crysler's Farm for their devotion and unsurmountable effort to assist with the War of 1812 Education Day. We acknowl-

edge the hard work and the hours donated by each member in order to help promote the importance of educating, preserving and promoting the Battlefield to our youth and to regional communities.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Bob Irvine, Dave Connors and Sarah Edwards at Upper Canada Village for

their assistance year after year with preparation and their assistance during the Education Day.

Despite the Coronavirus restrictions affecting our region, the War of 1812 Living History Weekend at the Glengarry Pioneer Museum is still being planned as a go for September 19-20, 2020.

Call to action

JOIN THE 'FRIENDS' TODAY

MUSTER SOME NATIONAL PRIDE!

Join the FCFB today and become a member!

For a \$25 (Canadian Funds) annual membership fee payable to The Friends of Crysler's Farm Battlefield; you can keep abreast of all the news and events surrounding the FCFB. If you do not wish to become a member, please consider making a donation towards preserving this important event in Canada's history. (Donations over \$10 are eligible for a tax receipt.)

Have a question?

1812alivedc@gmail.com

Whether you are a new member, plan to renew, or are a donor, please remember to include your full name, mailing address, e-mail, and a phone number with your remittance.

(Your contact information is for FCFB use only.)

MAIL TO:

Gabriele Thomas

48 Albert Street

PO Box 243

Chesterville, ON K0C 1H0

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

OFFICERS:

President: David Connors

Vice President: Jim Mullin

Past President: Bob Irvine

Treasurer: Gabriele Thomas

DIRECTORS:

Philip Bury, Carol Godard,

Mark Stubbs, Patrick Burger,

Susan Peters, Ashley Harper

Ex Officio: Sarah Edwards

WHO ARE WE

The Friends of Crysler's Farm Battlefield is a Not-For-Profit organization committed to the preservation and promotion of the military heritage of this battlefield site. Our goal is to aid in the maintenance and upgrading of the Battlefield Visitors Centre, the Memorial site and the surrounding grounds. We are active in supporting such efforts as hosting living history events each year. In addition to keep members abreast of activities and events at and around the site, our organization has developed a website as an adjunct to this biannual newsletter.

www.cryslerfarm.com

THE BATTLEFIELD DISPATCH

Is published on a need to basis. Submissions, comments, commentaries are the sole property of the contributors. Photos/submissions appearing in the Battlefield Dispatch are used with the permission from and are the sole property of the contributors and cannot be re-produced in any media form without the explicit written permission of the contributors. No portion of this publication is to be reproduced for personal profit.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Changes to events can be found on our website and Facebook

July 2020 re-enactment CANCELLED

November 11th:
Memorial Ceremony
Battlefield Memorial
9AM



www.facebook.com/CryslerFarm

