



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

P.O. Box 66637, Stoney Creek, On. L8G 5E6

NEWSLETTER

October 1995

Edition #6

BATTLEFIELD HOUSE GUARD TO NEWFOUNDLAND:

by Kevin O'Halloran (Sergeant)

At the personal invitation of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in St. John's, Newfoundland, 11 members of the Battlefield House Guard travelled to Signal Hill, St. John's to help the RNR celebrate its 200th Anniversary on July 1, 1995.

While the curator Susan Ramsey and her husband Wes flew, the rest drove over 1800 miles. We toured the city, Bowring Park, Cape Speir, attended lectures, presented greetings to the Mayor of St. John's - Mr. John Murphy from Mayor Anne Bain of Stoney Creek, ran a children's mini militia and participated in their Military Tattoo on Signal Hill. Wes Ramsey and Tom Harstine even managed to arise at 4 am. to take in the Sunrise Ceremony at 5 am. on Signal Hill.

While performing in the Tattoo, we unveiled for the first time to the people of St. John's our 1812 regimental flag of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment that was dedicated to us at last year's battle re-enactment by their own Colonel Ring and RSM Brennan. This drew great applause. It was hinted that if we didn't keep a close eye on it, it might become a permanent possession of Signal Hill.

We made many new friends, saw a few moose enjoyed good weather (at times very windy) and made many people aware of Battlefield House and Stoney Creek. We even met Moses, a seven year old Newfoundland dog who is the mascot of the 1837 Signal Hill Drill Team. We were tempted to trade our flag for him.

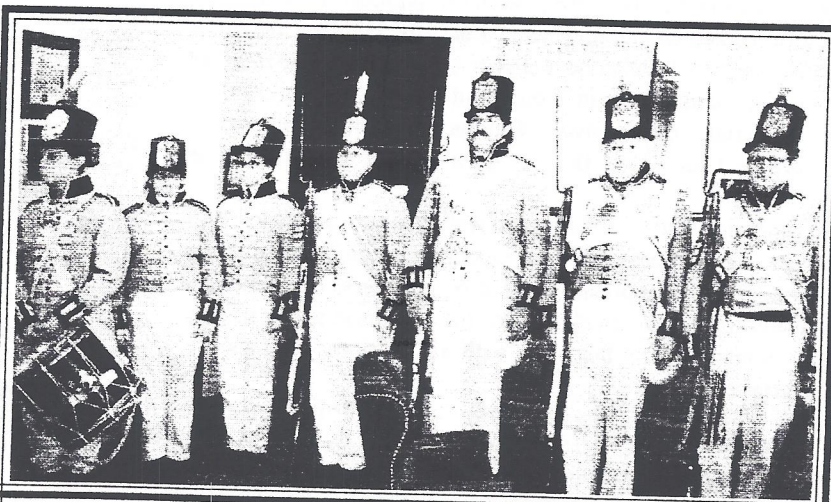
Our Unit made such an impression on the officers of the RNR and the staff of Park's Canada, Signal Hill that we have been invited back in 1997 to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Cabot's landing in Newfoundland.

I can say on behalf of all the members of the House Guard who performed in the Tattoo, what a proud and wonderful feeling it was to stand on the field and receive the crowd's applause as a member of Stoney Creek's Battlefield House Guard.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

We are very pleased to welcome **MARRIANNE FILICE.**



Battlefield House Guard

(from left to right)

Mike O'Halloran, (Drummer) Kristine Harstine, (Flag Bearer)
Kathy Harstine, (Flag Bearer) Ron Mormal, (Corporal) Tom
Harstine, (Private) Wes Ramsey, (Private) Kevin O'Halloran
(Sergeant)

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING:

This will be the last newsletter before Christmas, keep in mind books the Historical Society has for sale, as well as the latest item "The Story of Billy Green and the Battle of Stoney Creek" on audio tape.

BILLY GREEN AND THE BATTLE OF STONEY CREEK

by James Elliott

soft cover \$ 8.95

hard cover \$ 14.95

Audio Tape \$ 8.95

THE CROSS ON THE MOUNTAIN

by John Pell

\$ 3.00



FROM THE EDITOR:

Newsletter circulation has increased steadily since the first issue in January 1994. Requests for the publication are welcome. We now order 200 copies for distribution to members, libraries, local museums and to two local senior clubs. I hope the information and articles are both interesting and informative and that our Help Wanted section and Hunting Forebears can and will help with unanswered questions.

New members are high on our wish list, but to inform and possibly entertain you is the goal of this publication. With each edition I have encouraged you to become involved by either writing an article or to be a clipper of items you see in other publications send them in. Your input is needed. I would like to see material that involves Winona and the area above the escarpment submitted, this we have not had and it should be covered.

I am pleased with each edition to welcome new members. You all are to be congratulated by encouraging the building of the membership to our present level of 61 members. I also encourage you to become involved with the operation of the society by volunteering to help out with the various projects we undertake.

Beginning with the February 1996 newsletter the American version of the war of 1812 on the Niagara Frontier by Louis L. Babcock, published for the Buffalo Historical Society in 1927, will be included. This is a fairly long article and although I would have preferred to have it in one edition it is necessary to serialise it over several. However I'm sure you will enjoy comparing this with our version.

Work on the next newsletter begins prior to sending the current issue for printing so material coming in earlier than the deadline is much appreciated. To the people who have sent material I thank you, please keep up the good work.

Ron Place



SUMMER UPDATE:

BATTLEWEEK-END BOOK SALES:

Saturday was an unpredictable day weather-wise, the crowds not as large, and sales for all of the artisans were disappointing, however, we managed to sell,

- BILLY GREEN SOFT COVER, 5
- BILLY GREEN HARD COVER, 0
- CROSS ON THE MOUNTAIN, 6

Volunteer sellers were, Bud and Helen Green, Lloyd and Ruby Corman.

Sunday weather was much improved, as was the number of people attending the final day of Battle Week-End 1995. book sales were,

- BILLY GREEN SOFT COVER, 3
- BILLY GREEN HARD COVER, 1
- CROSS ON THE MOUNTAIN, 5

Volunteer sellers were, Ron Place, Bob and Irene Pergentile.

Thank-you all for your much appreciated help.

99 KINGSTREET EAST:

The City of Stoney Creek has purchased the home at the corner of King St. and Centennial Parkway to be used for administration offices for Battlefield House. We, The Stoney Creek Historical Society have been given a room in the basement area for our office and storage of equipment and supplies. It was necessary to do some construction to frame, wire, drywall, and possibly carpet the area. Volunteer labour was pressed into service and the work is progressing.

Volunteers have been—Lloyd Corman, -Jack Heeringa, -Gerry Heeringa, -Bill O'Reilly, -Bill Mitchell, -Ron Place.

We require some equipment for our office, an **electric heater, shelving, a filing cabinet, any other office equipment.** If you have any of these items and would care to donate them we would greatly appreciate your help. Please call any of the Executive

1995 FLAG DAY PARADE:

Another year, another perfect day for the Stoney Creek Flag Day Parade. Again we were well represented in the parade with 9 Antique cars preceded by the banner to advertise our organisation. Thanks to the car owners, Art Barnwell, Harvey Bowerman, Harry Brown, Ted Cassidy, Pres Featherstone, George Kosterewa, Ted Marvin, Tom Pitilli, and George Worrton.



FUTURE SPEAKERS:

- October 4: Bruce Jackson, "An evening of vintage films".
- November 1: Rev. Melvin Bailey, "Judge Thomas Taylor Circa 1812"
- January 3 1996: Bob Williamson, "Hamilton then and now PART 1."

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME:

Christmas comes early at the Lee this year, as we gear up for a holiday season full of Christmas ideas. Demonstrations on making traditional Victorian tree ornaments, traditional Christmas cooking and baking ideas, as well as creative Christmas decorating. Our **VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS FAIR** happens on Saturday, November 4, 1995, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Just a reminder to those who have not visited the Museum this year, the Historical Society has contributed to our exhibit area with a unique display of all types of boxes, and is well worth seeing. The Erland Lee (Museum) Home remains open until Thursday, November 30; our hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

by Mary Kneebone



ECHOES

STONEY CREEK: Mr. J. B. Walker is building a fine large bank or cellar barn on his farm on the top of the mountain, size 38 X 64, with cellar under the whole barn. There will be an addition to the main building nearly as large as the former.

Mr. Rowland Squire has the contract for the mason work, and Mr. J. G. Springstead, the carpenter work.

“The Dundas True Banner & Wentworth Co. Chronicle”
Issue of May 2, 1889

(J. B. Walker was enumerated as a freeholder of Concession 4 lot 23 in the 1891 Farmer’s Directory for Saltfleet Township and named on Lot 23, Concession 5, Saltfleet in the 1875 Historical Atlas for Wentworth County. Rowland Squires and J. G. Springstead were residents of Stoney Creek in 1891.)

It was at the residence of Mrs. J. B. Walker, that the monthly meeting of the Stoney Creek branch of the Women’s Institute was held on a Tuesday afternoon in June 1909. Mrs. Hamilton Lee presided. Miss May Glover read the minutes of the previous meeting. A piano duet was played by Misses Rose and Anna Lee. An impromptu talk on “As Others See Us” was given by Miss Miller, giving many useful hints for the members of the Institute. A mandolin solo was played by Mrs. Church, accompanied by Anna Lee on the piano. Mrs. Corman recited “Tabitha Tubbs at Slanderville” by request. Mrs. McNeilly brought greetings from Mrs. Hoodless, honorary president. Miss Miller, from the Ontario department of Agriculture addressed the ladies, speaking on “What Money Cannot Buy”.

Hamilton Spectator, “Society & Clubs”, June 10, 1909



by Dorothy J. Reid

THE LEWIS HOUSE 1843

The Levi Lewis homestead in Winona, long known as “the Lewis house”, is one of the oldest and finest historic landmarks in the Hamilton-Niagara area. Occupied today by George and Mary Lewis and their family, it is one of very few traditional Upper Canada homes remaining in possession of direct descendants of the builders of well over a century ago. This beautiful proportioned Georgian-style colonial house with its striking Palladian porticos was built over twenty years before Confederation y Levi Lewis, great great grandfather of the present owners. The total cost, according to an old account book listing every item, was £ 1432 (pounds) or \$ 3,598.45. Today, after careful contemporary preservation, the house is

virtually unchanged except for certain necessary conveniences of modern living.

The attractive carpentry work was done by a master carpenter and one helper who, the records show, received a total pay of £280 and board for their 700 days’ work on the house. In his bill of costs, Levi allowed himself £200 for “my own time and work over-seeing, etc.”. Even such small articles as panes of glass and window fasteners are included in his carefully hand-written list of materials and construction costs. The 115,000 red bricks for the home were made on the farm and, even today, broken pieces of brick brought to the surface by cultivation indicate the location of the kiln. The timber for the framework was cut on the lewis farm and on the nearby mountain brow.

The Lewis family was one of the first to settle in the Grimsby-Winona district, coming here from New Jersey with the United Empire Loyalists about 1780 and taking up land which was later given them by crown deed. Both the father and the grandfather of Levi were members of the First Municipal Council of Upper Canada held in Niagara-on-the-Lake, April 5, 1790. Levi’s father was also a member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada to which he was elected in 1808 by a majority of one vote according to an early electoral list preserved by the present owners. The list, compiled before the advent of the secret ballot and the women’s vote, includes the names of the forefathers of many of the district’s well-known residents. Both Levi and his son George, were Reeves of the Township of Saltfleet which in 1974 became the greater Town of Stoney Creek.

Before Confederation, the eastern area of Saltfleet, now known as Winona, was called Ontario. But when the name Ontario was given to the new province in 1867, the Indian name Winona (pronounced ‘win’ not ‘wine’) was chosen for the continuing postal zone to avoid confusion.

DID YOU KNOW?

That August 28, 1948 was the opening day of Mowbray’s Hardware. A new, different and modern store for downtown Stoney Creek.

CHARLOTTE BRONTE

In the silent midnight watches when my thoughts refuse to sleep
and memory keeps recalling regrets so sad and deep
Then I ask the Lord to help me drive those saddening thoughts away
and give me sweet forgetfulness til comes the dawn of day
Soon a calm and tranquil feeling O’er my troubled heart comes stealing
a low and gentle whisper seems to say,
Simply trust Him He has promised and His promise He will keep
For tis written that He giveth His beloved sleep.

submitted by Juanita Mitchell

FROM THE PAST:

The fourth regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the Parish Hall, March 24th, 1908 at 8 p.m., President Corman presiding. 7 members present. The minutes of the last regular meeting was read and adopted.

The President reported a meeting held by the Executive Committee stating that the contract to build the wall fence for Soldiers plot was awarded to Geo. Carter, Bartonville, who promised to have it completed in time for the service of consecration, the contract price being (left blank) all complete.

It was moved by Edward Kelly, seconded by Sam Hewitt, that the Executive Committee report be adopted. CARRIED.

Moved by Edward Kelly, seconded by Donald McInnes, that the Secretary purchase 50 badges at 10 cents each. CARRIED.

The plan for service of consecration was discussed and the Secretary was instructed to invite all Lodges, Societies and various fraternal Societies to be present and take part in the proceedings also to invite Reeve and Council of Saltfleet, Hon. E.D. Smith, Daniel Reed M.L.A., Mr. Thomas Bain, Warden Emory and County Council, Col. Ptolemy, W.O. Seely, Ham Regan, Sherrif Middleton, Ladies Wentworth Historical Society per Mrs. John Calder, Pres., Miss Nesbet, Sec. Women's Institute, Home Circle Mrs. J.K. Lottridge, Inspector Smith, Hamilton College Cadets.

President Gardner of Veteran's Society was present at the meeting.

There being no further business it was moved by Sam Hewitt, seconded by Selby Corman, that the meeting adjourn. CARRIED.

W.G. Davis, Sec. W.E. Corman, Pres.



HUNTING FOREBEARS:

TWEEDLE GRAVESTONE MYSTERY NOT CLOSED

Heather R. Broadbent, Heritage Resource Officer, of the Corporation of the Town of Caledon recently reported in the Ontario Genealogical Society's May, 1995 Newsletter that she was very pleased at the response she received from members of the society as well as the co-operation received from many others in connection with the tombstone which was found after a fire in Caledon. Heather received responses from as far away as Brandon, Manitoba and Florida and has gathered information about a variety of Tweedles most especially those who came from Saltfleet Township. We now know that Isabelle and Joseph, and their daughter Lillian Tweedle and another person are buried in the Hamilton Cemetery. Heather regrets that they do not know where they all lived when the baby died on Sept. 21, 1891 at age 4 months. When Heather took the monument to the Hamilton Cemetery, it was discovered that the name of the little girl was engraved at the top of the stone as "CILTHIE PEARL". The stone will be placed as a flat stone at the gravesite

of her parents Isabelle and Joseph. The name is most commonly spelled as TWEEDLE, TWEDLE, and TWEDDLE but are all connected to this family. The file is not closed. If the baby was in fact buried on the family farm (which was frequently the case in such circumstances) it is hoped the site might eventually be identified.

If you have any information that would help Heather, please write to her at Box 1000, Caledon East, Ontario LON 1E0.



by Dorothy Reid

Stoney Creek Fire 1922:

In April 1986, W.A. McNeil was asked if he remembered anything about the King St. fire that occurred in 1922, Bill remember the event very well, and was asked by Ron Bertram if he would write down his account. This letter was given to the Historical Society for our archives by Ron Bertram who also gave us post card photographs of the Acacia hotel, for this we are very grateful.

"A short account of the fire in Stoney Creek which burned the huge barn of the Acacia Hotel, McClung butcher shop and the ice house, the garage, McNeil's frame bakeshop, the wagon shed, the feed barn, the store and the house.

The frame home of Miss Sarah Slingerland, a spinster, being less than thirty feet from the house was severely scorched, but she would not let the men remove any of her furniture, she seemed to have a premonition that her place would not be lost, and it was not. All the furniture was removed from the home of Case Springstead, which was situated another thirty feet east of Miss Slingerland.

The fortunate change of the wind when the fire was at its height was all that saved the houses on Jones street.

I well remember two men picking up the 400 lb. safe and carrying it across the street.

J.T. Chittick's grocery store which was across the street had all the windows broken from the fire when the wind changed from South to North.

Arrangements for fire protection from Hamilton were never made, therefore the Hamilton Fire Dept. did not get permission to respond to this fire for at least one hour; by this time every building in the way was lost.

We lived at 26 King Street West and I well remember a man running up the road shouting fire, this was about 3 a.m. I called to my Dad and we ran down the street, not knowing it was near our place.

When the wind changed from South to North that was when the North East corner of the huge barn of the Acacia Hotel caught fire; this being a frame building it soon was a total loss.

I cannot help but think that the houses on Jones Street were saved when the wind changed from South to North when the fire was at its height. This was an act of Providence."

signed by
W.A. McNeil.

APRIL 2, 1986

Stoney Creek Historical Society

1995

Executive:

President: Mary Lewis 643-3665
 1st. Vice President: Ron Place 662-8856
 2nd. Vice President: Lloyd Corman 664-7161
 Treasurer: Milt Henderson 662-1035
 Recording Secretary: Mary Kneebone 662-2310
 Corresponding Secretary: Gerry Heeringa 664-2067

Directors:

Evelyn Wills 664-6150 Bill O'Reilly 662-2248 Barbara Green 662-6920

Committees:

Programmes: Barbara Green **Archives:** Dorothy Kinsman **Genealogy:** Dorothy Reid
 662-4582 662-2900 664-6355

Publication: Mary & George Lewis Barbara Green Bill O'Reilly
 643-3665 662-4582 662-2248

Plaquing & Liaison to L.A.C.A.C.: George Lewis 643-3665

Social Conveners: Ruby & Lloyd Corman 664-7161

Publicity: Evelyn & Richard Wills George Lewis
 664-6150 643-3665

Telephone: Barb Green 662-4582 Evelyn Wills 664-6150 Mary Place 662-8856

Canada Flag Day: Ron Place Richard Wills Bill O'Reilly Harry Brown
 662-8856 664-6150 662-2248 578-9555

Newsletter: Ron Place 662-8856

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT STONEY CREEK CITY HALL, SALTFLEET ROOM
 1st. WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING AT 7.30 pm. SEPTEMBER TO JUNE
 COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL



(Please print)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt.: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Families: (List names of family members) _____

Membership Dues: Family \$15.00 Single: \$12.00 Student/senior \$7.00 Association: \$20.00

(Please check) _____ Renewal: _____ New:

Membership Term January 1st. to December 31st.
 Please complete this application and make your cheque payable to

The Stoney Creek Historical Society
 P.O. Box 66637 Stoney Creek On. L8G 5E6

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Account balances to September 14, 1995
GENERAL ACCOUNT \$ 244.83
PUBLISHING ACCOUNT \$3249.78
MUSEUM FUND \$ 5382.07

HELP WANTED:

An update on our involvement with the National Film Board project on the Skyway Theatre. After an insert in the Hamilton Spectator asking for information, I received more than twenty phone calls. I was pleased to be able to pass on to Allan Barnes the names and numbers of these people so that he could contact them directly. Allan assured me that when this project is complete, the Stoney Creek Historical Society would receive credit for our involvement.

1996 EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS:

The 1996 general meeting will be held Wednesday, January 3rd, this is also voting day for the next executive. The following offices are open for nominations.

Recording Secretary.

2nd Vice President.

Directors (3 required).

Members should consider standing for these positions. The nominating committee will contact members prior to the January meeting.

REPORT FROM BATTLEFIELD HOUSE:

Tuesday, October 10th. 7.30 P.M.

FRIENDS OF BATTLEFIELD HOUSE MEETING.

John Triggs Director of Archaeology, Dundurn Castle.

Sunday, October 22nd.

R.O.M. IDENTIFICATION CLINIC.

Brian Musslewhite from the R.O.M. will hold an identification clinic. Price is \$ 5.00 per item.

please note, this is Identification only, not an evaluation.

Sunday, November 26th. 2.00 P.M.

BATTLEFIELD HOUSE RE-OPENING.

After extensive restoration work, Battlefield House will be reopened to the public. Representatives from the infrastructure committee will be in attendance.

Saturday, December 16th. 7.00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHT EVENING AT BATTLEFIELD HOUSE.

Come out and enjoy the Battlefield House Annual Christmas Candlelight Evening. Refreshments, entertainment. For information please call 662-8458.

GROANERS

My minister told me that at my age I should be giving some thought to what he called "the hereafter". I told him that I think about it many times a day. "That's very wise," he said. I explained that it's not a matter of wisdom. It's when I open a drawer or closet and ask myself, "What am I here after?"

The next newsletter will be issued Wednesday, February 7 1996.

Material deadline is MONDAY, JANUARY 15 1996.

Archives
c/o Dorothy Kinsman