



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6

NEWSLETTER

March 2013

Edition #57 Circulation: 300 copies



MPP Hamilton East-Stoney Creek Paul Miller (left) and Ontario Trillium Foundation's Nancy McKibbin-Gray present SCHS President Greg Armstrong with a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation at our Open House on January 19th.



Re-enactors portraying the 104th Regiment of Foot, formed an honour guard as the speakers and other VIP's at the SCHS Open House entered the auditorium.



Volunteer Peter Kennedy explains the process he and fellow volunteer Larry Mitchell use to make digital copies of the Land Registry Books to a guest at the Open House. Larry and Peter have now completed more than half of the digitizing. Their work has been made easier thanks to a camera and light stand devised by SCHS member Fred Briggs and loaned to SCHS.



Barbara Green, great-great-granddaughter of our local hero Billy Green has generously donated Billy's regimental trousers, sword, drum and drumstick to SCHS. These items have been in possession of the Green family for five generations and now are displayed and preserved in our Reference Library and Archives.

Barb was one of the early members in the re-build of the Stoney Creek Historical Society in 1987. She was program chair for many years and also served on the Xmas House Tours. Her home was opened to the public for many years.

At our recent Open House, President Greg Armstrong presented her with an Honorary Life Membership. Our thanks go out to her for her recent donation to the Archives and her many years of service to the Stoney Creek Historical Society

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As we continue into 2013, the bi-centennial of the war of 1812 enters its second year. Our Society has great regard for all of the efforts and preparation undertaken by our colleagues at Friends of Battlefield, as we approach the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek in June 2013. That month will bring many events and much celebration. This is truly an exciting and dynamic time in the history of our community.

Our Society is also pleased to learn of the progress obtained by Friends of the Erland Lee Museum, as they continue their efforts to reopen that distinguished facility. We look forward to that event later this season.

The official opening of the Stoney Creek Historical Society's (SCHS) Reference Library and Archive, took place on January 19th, 2013. Our Open House was well attended. SCHS thanks everyone for so many positive comments and much favourable feedback. Our special guests were MPP Paul Miller, Ontario Trillium Fund (OTF) area representative Nancy McKibbon-Gray, and His Worship, the Mayor of the City of Hamilton, Bob Bratina. All three of our guests were generous in their praise and encouragement. Our Volunteers have indeed created a remarkable area resource. On behalf of SCHS, I again extend our appreciation to Paul Miller, Nancy McKibbon-Gray, and Bob Bratina for their attendance and support. Of particular note is the financial assistance extended to SCHS by the OTF, which has allowed us to organize and display our materials so effectively. In addition, our thanks to counselor Maria Pearson who has been instrumental in the procurement of space for our Library located at 605 # 8 Highway, Stoney Creek.

As President, I extend a special "*Thank You*" to Barb Green for her extraordinary donations. These include Billy Green the Scout's original sword, drum, drumstick and trousers. These artifacts warrant and have been assigned to their own unique display case.

Others have similarly made donations. Each is handled with care and is appropriately documented and preserved.

And in closing, may I welcome everyone to our monthly meetings. These are open to the public and there is no obligation to join. If you do attend, you'll enjoy an entertaining guest speaker, refreshments, and based on the experiences of many, you'll likely meet someone that you already know. From there, you can make or review your own history.

Do enjoy the events of these special times.

Best wishes to all.

Greg Armstrong
President-SCHS

DID YOU KNOW

Stoney Creek Historical Society is currently working on a request for information from a woman in Michigan who had family living in Tapleytown in 1802. She is trying to prove that her ancestor came to America on the Mayflower and it is hoped that Tapleytown land deeds, will and cemetery records will prove a generational connection within the family that she has been unable to prove in any other way.

Stoney Creek Historical Reference Library and Archives

January 19, 2013 was a very successful day as we held our Open House.

Greg Armstrong, President, hosted the afternoon by introducing the invited speakers. He accepted the plaque presented by the representative from Ontario Trillium Foundation, Nancy McKibbin-Gray.

MPP for Hamilton East Stoney Creek Paul Miller spoke for a few minutes about the importance of preserving our local history with the work that we do and his having taken part in the Re-enactment a few years ago in conjunction with the Battle of Stoney Creek festivities.

His Worship, Mayor Bob Bratina, spoke of our area and how vital it is to maintain the historical records in a safe manner.

Member of Council, Maria Pearson, who has worked so hard for the Stoney Creek Historical Society, Member of Council, Brenda Johnson, as well as Mrs. Bratina attended along with several important guests.

The grant that Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded to us was used to purchase archive-safe materials; i.e. protective sleeves for over 1200 photographs; filing cabinets to store them; special shelving and boxes to house many documents and handwritten letters; computers to input very important data; printers to scan and copy all of our work, special UV filter film for the windows, frames to hang many, many pictures; a freezer to store newly received donations to protect from infestations; and a special glass viewing case to house the drum, sword, pants, etc., owned by "Billy Green The Scout"

Many volunteers helped to make the day a very pleasant event by allowing visitors to see how we have photographed the Land Registry Books, how we have catalogued the Reference Library, how we can view a scrolling photo album on our computers. We also had brochures available, books to purchase, memberships to join.

A highlight of the afternoon was certainly our PowerPoint which ran before the speeches began. We were also able to purchase a projector and screen with part of the funds. We now have this PowerPoint to use as a tool at many meetings and events in our area. Friends and members also baked all of the cookies and squares offered in the foyer. Karen Cerello, Cerello & Associates CGA PC generously supplied the tea and coffee. Karen is a new member of the SCHS Board of Directors.

We hope that everyone who came enjoyed our special afternoon and will visit our Reference Library and Archives in the near future.

If you were unable to attend January 19, please be sure to visit us any Tuesday or Thursday afternoon between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

We are now fully equipped to accept your donations of letters, papers, photographs, documents.

We can take ownership for future public viewing or scan for our use and return the originals to you. We hope to have our website up and running very soon. This site will have direct links to the Reference Library and Archives for you to make inquiries or to make an appointment to meet with us.

Thank you once again to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, MPP Paul Miller, His Worship Mayor Bob Bratina, Councillors, volunteers and guests.

Reference Library and Archives Volunteers

Event Notification

Smith's Knoll Commemorative Event - May 31, 2013

Smith's Knoll Parade, Service and Cemetery Re-dedication in Honour
of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek

The year 2013 marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek, one of the most important battles of the War of 1812 and the only conflict to take place in the Hamilton region.

To honour those who fought during the Battle, the City of Hamilton in partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion Battlefield Branch 622, American Legion Post 18 and Her Majesty's Army & Navy Veterans Society invite you to attend a Parade and Memorial Service at the Smith's Knoll. The service will include a re-dedication of the newly landscaped cemetery and will be followed by a reception.

The event will be held on Friday May 31 2013. The Parade will begin at approximately 7:00 P.M. from the Royal Canadian Legion Battlefield Branch 622 (12 King ST E. Stoney Creek) and the service will take place at Battlefield Cemetery – Smith's Knoll at 7:30 P.M. It is anticipated that King Street W from Lake Avenue to Centennial Parkway will be closed to accommodate the parade and service from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE 2013

Nash – Jackson House – Battlefield Park (Second Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm)

March 12, 2013 - Richard Feltoe : The Pendulum of War, January to June 1813, going
beyond the War in 1812.

April 9, 2013 - Nancy Matthew & Shelley Holmes : In Search of Jane Austen

May 14, 2013 - Heather Henderson More than a Battlefield: Buried History at Battlefield
Park.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Stoney Creek Historical Society was asked to provide information on who donated the land that is now the Community Park in Stoney Creek.

Through land records and Village of Stoney Creek Council Minutes, SCHS was able to show that the land was donated to the village by the Wigham family in 1922.



WHO FIRED THE CANNON *early summer 1913 at the Battlefield Park Stoney Creek*

The new monument to commemorate the Battle of Stoney Creek in 1813, is finished and will be unveiled on a historic day, June 1913, by Queen Mary pressing a button in Buckingham Palace, England.

Men of the district have been getting the grounds ready. The long grass has been cut, raked and most of it drawn away. All is ready for the big day.

An old resident of the Township, Mr W. E. ("Daddy") Corman , a man about 60 years of age, lived east of Gray Road, on the south side of King Street. He was responsible for having work done. One day when they were working in the park, he told Jack Walker how easy it would be to shoot off one of the cannons. He also described how it could be done.

Later on, Jack and Art Glover (later my Uncle) decided to try it. They got a long fuse of some description, a round gallon syrup can, which they filled with gunpowder. The night before the big day, they went up the hill to the monument.

The fuse was put through the priming hole, fed out through the barrel, inserted in the can and then fuse and can were carefully pulled back inside. Dry grass was rammed down the barrel, using a fence rail as a ramrod.

Then the fuse was lit, and the two amateurs gunners took off for their respective homes. Jack lived at what is now 21 King Street West, and Art lived at the top of the London Mountain Road. This road used to leave #20 Hwy south of the bridge and go west up the mountain.

I do not know how near home Art got, but Jack, after tearing his pants on a fence and falling into a ditch finally reached his barn. Nothing had happened yet ! Did the fuse go out? Should I go back? *INDECISION !!*

Then the sky lit up and instantly *WHOOOOM: HOO-RAY*, it worked.

Next morning "Daddy" Corman came by with his wagon and several men. He stopped at Jack's place and said, "some one shot off the cannon last night and we have to get the mess cleaned up. I wonder who did it ?" "Come and help us" Jack climbed on the wagon and went along. Never, by look or word did "Daddy" let on he knew or suspected who the guilty people were.

The blast had knocked the cannon off its base - - at that time the base was wood - - later changed to concrete - - scattered burnt hay over the field between the hill and the Battlefield house, and broke several windows.

The County Police and Detectives were around the area for several days, conducting an investigation, but could not discover anything. At various times over the next few years, investigations were re – opened, but the guilty persons were never caught.

The secret was kept until about 1935, when Stew Glover and myself were told. Of course, we promised to keep quiet. Later the rest of the Glover children were told.

It is now almost fifty years later, and I feel this is an interesting, if unknown, part of the History of Stoney Creek.

Don Walker son of Jack Walker

**THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST WEB PAGE WITH "BILLY GREEN AND BALDERDASH"
POSTED ONLINE.**



**United Empire Loyalists'
Association of Canada**

Billy Green And Balderdash: The Facts **published by The Stoney Creek Historical Society**

Billy Green

This book, published in 2011, was researched and written by David B. Clark, U.E., Douglas A. Green, U.E. and M. Lubell

The Stoney Creek Historical Society published this 30 page booklet on the role of William (Billy the Scout) Green in the Battle of Stoney Creek which took place on the 6th of June, 1813. This battle is regarded as a turning point in the War of 1812 and Billy Green's role in that British victory has been examined in meticulous detail by the authors. There is no doubt that his name "Scout-Green", is rightly inscribed on the Battlefield Monument at Stoney Creek.

Written in reply to James Elliott's "Strange Fatality", Appendix 'A', which downplays and disputes the role of William Green in the War of 1812, this new booklet offers research that overturns Elliott's revisionist history.

A revised copy was prepared in November 2011 for UELAC with several amendments for clarity and two corrections ("Hannah Corman" was in fact Hannah Green and the reference "H.A. Corman 1909" is now accurately cited as 1916). The detail that Billy told Dr. Brown his story before August 1856 was introduced.

With the kind permission of The Stoney Creek Historical Society, the book is available here as a pdf [download here](#)

Printed copies may be obtained from the Society for \$4.00 including mailing within Canada. The Stoney Creek Historical Society's address is P.O. Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON, L8G 5E6.

Support in a community newspaper column during 2011 for Elliott's theory led the authors to examine some claims in further detail, careful attention being paid to sources, to the plausibility of local stories and to variations in the transcriptions of Billy's story. The earliest text available is identified, examined and carefully transcribed. It reveals that the simplified outline given by Billy of the course of the battle is both coherent and consistent with other evidence. The theory that Peter VanWagner concocted Billy's story late in the nineteenth century is further undermined by "[Billy Green and More Balderdash](#)" written by Lubell, Clark and Green (February 2012).

TO VIEW THIS AND READ THESE TWO BOOKLETS ONLINE GO TO

"UELAC.ORG" (click right side under resources, then books & reviews in the box)

There's also a face-book page for Billy Green "[Billy Green the Scout](#)" with the links to above and much more information uncovered in the past 2 years.

Reviews of the Stoney Creek Historical Society's booklet *Billy Green and Balderdash*

1st Review Copied from *The Loyalist Gazette* fall 2011 pages 49 & 50

Billy Green and Balderdash - A Presentation of the Facts

Authors: David B Clark UE, Douglas A Green, M Lubell

Publisher: Stoney Creek Historical Society

ISBN: 978-0-9868772-1-6

Soft Cover 30 pages, 2011

Reviewed by Grietje R. McBride UE. B. Sc

In 2009 James Elliott wrote *Strange Fatality The Battle of Stoney Creek 1813*. His work downplays the role of Billy Green, a seventeen year-old scout, in this important battle.

.....*the persona of Billy Green was cut from whole, or nearly whole, cloth to create a Stoney Creek hero who could stand beside Laura Secord. There is of course, no smoking gun to identify the tailor or tailors*

— Elliott, 2009, page 8

Three researchers, David B Clark UE, Douglas A Green and M Lubell, began to research the history of Billy Green and his role in the Battle of Stoney Creek in order to clarify and respond to facts laid out in *Strange Fatality* that amounted to declaring that Billy Green's role in this famous battle was more myth than history.

The points of inaccuracy are noted with corrections by the researchers for the Stoney Creek Historical Society. These points are supported with two and a half pages of bibliography and more than seventy end notes.

This tiny treatise, only thirty pages long, is so filled with concise argument that it needs to be read several times to understand the valid historical points made in defence of Billy Green's place in history. This is not a chore, quite the opposite, in fact, because the arguments are clear and scholarly. Subheadings assist the readers in finding each section or "*mini – chapter*" and the conclusions are clearly presented.

Elliott who wrote *Strange Fatality*, is a former newspaper reporter. His business was to collect and interpret facts. The Stoney Creek Historical Society has precisely the same goals. In the wider context, both works demonstrate the importance of preserving original documents for interpretation in the light of new evidence. This is the challenge of historical research: to sift through the facts - all the facts - in order to present history as accurately as possible.

If *Strange Fatality* had not been written in 2009, the Stoney Creek Historical Society would not have spent so much time and effort in refuting arguments downplaying the role of this hero in the Battle of Stoney Creek

Because the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 is only one year away, interest is high in renewing our acquaintance with the history surrounding the people and events of this war. It behoves us to correct as much misinformation as we can.

Therefore I recommend this little gem of a book for your reading as well as *Strange Fatality*, the book that spawned *Billy Green and Balderdash*.

2nd review Copied from the

ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK REVIEW OHS BULLETIN Dec 2011 issue 181 page 8

BILLY GREEN AND BALDERDASH: A Presentation of the Facts.....

Familiar stories, family stories, about earlier times and people may or may not be factually correct. One such tale recounts the heroism of Billy Green at the battle of Stoney Creek in 1813.

Two years ago, historian James E. Elliott in *Strange Fatality*, a volume detailing many aspects of that battle's history (noted here in October 2009) discounted and dismissed the Green story.

Frankly and firmly, Elliott's arguments are here rebutted, while at Stoney Creek the monument to Billy still stands.

Stoney Creek Historical Society Board of Directors

President	Greg Armstrong	(905) 662-6269
Past President	Bill Mitchell	(905) 664-4576
1 st Vice President	John Fraser	(905) 667-3688
2 nd Vice President	Wendy Klassen	(905) 662-1524
Treasurer	Judy Green	(905) 662-4065
Recording Secretary	Joyce Brown	(905) 662-1705
Correspondence Secretary	Joyce Brown	(905) 662-1705
Director	Mary Lewis	(905) 643-3665
Director	Kathy Wakeman	
Director	Dean Wilkes	(289) 656-1062
Director	Robin McKee	(905) 544-9559
Director	Karen Cerello	(905) 525-0655

Committee Chairs / Co-ordinators

Archives: Nancy Capstick
Sue Heatherley archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Telephone: June Guzar
Membership: Judy Green

Newsletter: Jean Baine, Kevin Lee, Doug Green

Programming: Kathy Wakeman

Social: Bev Gray, Carolyn Briggs

Member Business Directory

Britannia Cleaners	Ed Strecker	17 King Street East	(905) 662-4971
Bertram & Barry Insurance Ltd.		6 Lake Ave. S	(905) 662-8645
Cerello and Associates	Karen Cerello	42 King St. E. Unit 4	(905) 662-2848
Chamber of Commerce	Dave Cage	21 Mountain Ave. S	(905) 664-4000
Dr. Keith Millar		304 – 15 Mountain Ave S	(905) 662-2312
Donald V. Brown Funeral Home	Julie Brown – Webber	36 Lake Ave. Dr	(905) 662-2948
Flowers by Dianne	Dianne Black	9 King St. West	(905) 664-6621
Queenston Stationary	Mario Figueroa	38 King St. East	(905) 664-3360
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 622		12 King St. East	(905) 662-4171
Smith's Funeral Home (Stoney Creek) Limited		454 Highway # 8	(905) 664-4222

Please contact *Doug Green* at dgreen136@cogeco.ca if you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail. Help us reduce printing costs

Membership Application / Renewal / Donations

Yes: I would like to acquire / renew membership in the Stoney Creek Historical Society. _____

Name (s) _____ Receive newsletter by e-mail? Yes ___ No ___

Address _____ Please send to: Stoney Creek Historical Society
P.O. Box 66637
Stoney Creek, ON
L8G 5E6

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____ Please check one: New membership Renewal

Please indicate your preferred membership option: Individual: \$10.00 Family: \$18.00
Business \$25.00

** Please accept my additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ to assist the work of the Society

space reserved for address label

Historical Society Research Queries

Please contact via email:
archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Please Help Us Manage Newsletter Printing Costs

A \$30.00 donation helps with the expense of printing and mailing our newsletter. If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact our Treasurer, Judy Green at (905) 662-4065 receipts are issued for donations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Connie Bertram, Marg Bliss, Virginia Cumming
Jack Freiburger, Doug & Ruth Friesen
Glen McKibbon, John Nixon, Dan & Anne Smith

REMINDER

2013 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS
ARE NOW DUE