



Outlook

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A Conflict of Meagre Fortune The War of 1812

By Bill Kennedy

In the same year that Napoleon Bonaparte's *Grande Armée* of 650,000 marched into Russia, a brash upstart on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, the United States, declared war on the British Empire. In that year of 1812 the American merchant marine was the second largest in the world, and its profitable trade with France, Britain's enemy, had set English teeth on edge, so much so that the British navy was interdicting American shipping and impressing its crews, many of whom were British sailors.



Photo—Nick White

Major John Grodzinski, PhD, is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Royal Military College, Kingston. His research of the War of 1812 in the Upper St. Lawrence River was nominated for the Governor General's Gold Medal Award for Academic Excellence. He was the speaker at the Historical Society's January public event.

The conflict, which would go down in history as the "War of 1812," lasted two-and-a-half years, and when the fog of confusion and misadventure finally cleared neither side had made a single territorial gain.

To this day, two hundred years later, both sides declare victory, and the war continues to be celebrated and re-enacted with blazing muskets and colourful uniforms north and south of the border.

When compared to the greater European conflagration ignited by Napoleon following the French Revolution, the North American war was little more than a sideshow. Britain's commitments around the globe (one man in five of its population was in uniform) hindered its ability to deploy significant troop levels and materiel for the defence of its "wilderness" colony. Similarly, the size of the American army was far from adequate. Four years earlier it had numbered only 8,000 men and by 1812 was still considered below strength. And as if these shortfalls weren't enough, the adversaries had to account for over 1200 kilometres of front line that stretched along the St. Lawrence from Montreal through the Great Lakes to Michilimackinac. A fascinating point about this front line was that it was also the supply line, something possibly unique in the annals of warfare.

The Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's forces in British North America was Sir George Prevost. In his presentation to the Hastings County Historical Society in January, Major John Grodzinski pointed out that despite history's criticisms of the man's leadership abilities, he did develop a cogent strategy for the defence of Upper Canada. As it could take six or eight months for reinforcements to reach the colony from abroad, he had to be careful how he deployed his limited forces, and in fact had been directed by his superiors to hold the line rather than make audacious forays against the enemy.

The Americans began turning out fighting ships at Sackets Harbor on Lake Ontario at a ratio of about a dozen to one compared with the British and in the spring of 1813 they took control of Lake Ontario and captured York (Toronto). At the same time the size of their army was increasing, reaching 30,000 men by 1814. This rapid expansion increased American strength but also generated the accompanying problems

of supply. Shoes, uniforms, weapons, ammunition and food all had to be found. A further complication arose in that while the American government was issuing promissory notes to American farmers for payment of provisions at some future date, the British were offering them cold hard cash on the spot. It was an easy choice. Included in the foodstuffs these not overly patriotic farmers sold to the British during the war were cattle and two million barrels of grain.

The largest American offensive of the war was against Montreal in October 1813. Among the reasons for its failure, insufficient supplies likely played a role. Another reason for American difficulties was their attacking of Canadian objectives sequentially rather than hitting two or three points simultaneously and thereby causing a dispersal of British forces over a wider area. Then, in the winter of 1813–1814, Napoleon came to Britain's aid by abdicating, thus allowing the mother country to send an additional 20,000 troops to her beleaguered colony. Prevost's orders were now to take control of Lake Champlain, Sackets Harbor, the Niagara Peninsula and just about any other American point he could lay his hands on all the way to Michilimackinac. It was apparent that the authority issuing the orders back in London had no comprehension of the distances involved and the impossibility of such an undertaking.

The "War of 1812" officially ended with the ratification of the Treaty of Ghent by the American Congress in February 1815, one month after the defeat of the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

Robert Newell Broad

Hastings County Farmer and Soldier

By Anne Elspeth Rector



On autumn's cusp 1887 (not 1897 as noted elsewhere), Margaret Matilda Mackie gave birth to a boy in Madoc Township. Born September 21, Robert Newell Broad (photo left) was a second son for James Robert and Margaret Broad's growing family. Since their marriage on September 6, 1882, in Queensboro, Elzevir Township, the Broads had a young

daughter, Mabel Almira, and young son, Foster; now

they had a baby brother.

Son to a farmer, and grandson to a rope maker (the local Broad progenitor), James Robert Broad also farmed Hastings County lands. And when World War I broke out, James and Margaret's youngest son, Robert, was single and living with them at RR #2 Madoc. A century ago may seem like an eternity, but for many of us, it was the time of our grandparents. My granny was a young woman when World War I began, and to this day, when I see reminders of this "Great War," I think of her experiences amidst such life-altering upheaval.

September 22, 1914, a day after he turned 27, Madoc's Robert Newell Broad enlisted for military service at Valcartier, Quebec. Information posted on the Canadian Great War Project at www.canadiangreatwar-project.com shows he joined the Canadian Infantry Regiment of the Army, in the Second Battalion. It noted his prior military experience, four years with the 49th Regiment. Standing 5' 7", Robert Newell Broad was also listed as Wesleyan.

Fighting in Europe, Broad would survive the battlefields and was fortunate not to be taken a prisoner of war. In "Way Back When," a book about Madoc Village and Madoc Township, it says, "He returned to Canada in April 1919, the only original 2nd Battalion Officer to return with the men." Broad received several decorations and was wounded in action - twice. At Madoc Library, beneath the portrait of Major Robert Newell Broad, M.C., M.M., it says: "In World War I served in Battles of Armentiers (sic), Secord (sic), Ypres, Festuber, Givenchy, and Sanctuary Wood. Wounded at Somme. Served again at Sensee Canal, Canal du Nord and again wounded at Cambrai. One of the first two Canadian officers to enter Germany in charge of the Scouts. Decorated with Military Cross by H.R.H. King George V at Buckingham Palace, April 1919; with Military Medal by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales at Kingston, Ontario in September 1919; Mons Star for service in France in 1915. Served in World War II as training officer with Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment."

At war's end, Broad returned to Hastings County and resumed farming. He was also recorded as a carpenter, like his second cousin once removed, and this writer's husband, Kelly Clark Reid. Given this family connection, I'm honoured to share Robert Newell Broad's wartime service, today.

We don't know if they met before or after the war, but Robert fell for Ida Victoria Jarvis, a Hastings county schoolteacher from O'Hara School House. Six years her fiancé's junior, Ida Victoria was daughter to Jonas Jarvis and Melissa Elizabeth Helmstreet. Attired in a brown fur-trimmed travelling suit, Ida married

Robert in a military wedding in Madoc on January 24, 1923. James N. Jarvis is noted as a witness, along with Edna E. Bremner of Trenton. Interestingly, Broad is called a Captain on his marriage in the *North Hastings Review* of January 31, 1923.

Despite the advent of automobiles, “Way Back When” says, “Newell kept his little fox coloured buggy horse, ‘Topsy’, until 1927.” The more I learned about Broad’s life, the more I wondered if he carried scars from the war. Of course all soldiers do, but did Robert share his feelings with Ida? Did he ever talk of his experiences in such horrific conflict? We don’t know. Yet, surviving war was the best anyone could hope for, and Robert managed this, returning home to Hastings County.

WWI wasn’t his last war. Broad served again as a training officer during World War II, with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment. Once more, he would survive a war to end all wars. “Way Back When” described him farming in May 1963, having, “A very severe heart attack and was forbidden by the doctor to do any more farm work. He had the grain ready to sow the three remaining, but the fields had not been worked. One day that week when Newell was bedridden, some neighbours moved into the fields with ten tractors hauling the required machinery and by evening the fields were all worked, seeded and even rolled. The spirit of good country neighbours is always evident ...”

Broad died a civilian in 1964. His death notice appeared in the July 16 *North Hastings Review*; “One of the district’s most distinguished veterans is dead. Major Robert Newell Broad, M.C., M.M., commissioned and decorated on the field after he joined as a private in World War I, died suddenly in Belleville General Hospital Wednesday morning, July 15. He was in his 77th year. A life-long resident of Madoc Township, he was a well-known, popular figure in the area.” It also noted, “Members of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment and the Royal Canadian Legion, formed a Guard of Honour at the Funeral Home, church, and cemetery.”

Broad’s obituary lists his children with Ida: “One son, Kenneth, of Madoc; a daughter, Mrs. H.C. (Doris) Pearce, of Montreal; eight grandchildren and a sister, Mrs. Mabel Kincaid, of Toronto. He was predeceased by a brother, Foster.” Ida died three years later, and the couple is buried together at Hazzard’s Cemetery, Hazzard’s Corners, in Madoc Township.

With appreciation for research assistance to Madoc Library volunteer Wendy Stevens.



The Lofty Oak from the Small Acorn Grows

By Richard Hughes

Fifty-six years ago the Historical Society was born through the efforts and vision of a very small group of people. Occasionally it is good to recall our origins, so in that light we reproduce the handwritten minutes of a meeting held on October 1, 1957:

“A small group of people met in the City Hall Council Chamber on Tuesday evening, October 1, to discuss the possibilities of proceeding with the organization of a Historical Society for Hastings County.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. J. Haig, who stated that she felt there was considerable interest throughout the county if the organization could be once established.

It was moved by Mrs. J. Haig, and seconded by Mr. T.G. Wrightmeyer, that a slate of officers be appointed from the group present, to carry on for the time being. Carried

The temporary slate of officers appointed were – President, Mr. T.G. Wrightmeyer; Vice-President, Mr. K.M. Bird; Secretary, Mrs. M. Robson; Treasurer, Mr. T. Ransom; Publicity Director, Mr. G. Boyce.

It was agreed that we charge a membership fee of \$1.00, to help defray some small expenses in connection with advertising, and also because it was felt it might have a psychological value.

Mrs. Haig said she felt sure Mr. Doran of the Recreation Committee would be willing to assist the group, handling a mailing list, etc. The names of several other people and organizations in the county were suggested as being likely to be interested in the formation of the Society.

It was reported that some old books and papers belonging to the late Mr. W.C. Mikel are at present stored in the basement in the Public Library. Miss Campbell and Mr. Boyce agreed to go and sort through them to see if they contained anything of value to the Historical Society.

It was decided to hold a meeting at Shire Hall on October 15, at which time plans were to be made for a public meeting in November. Two suggestions were made for a possible speaker in November – The Rev. Squire of Consecon, or Mr. Claude Young, of Wellington.

After some further information discussion, the meeting was adjourned.”

Bellevillians Worth Remembering

by Vern Whalen

Tom “Red” Mavety was much more than just the father of hockey player and coach Larry Mavety. He along with Jim “Snipe” Mathews were very instrumental in keeping Junior B hockey alive in Belleville in the 1960s and 1970s. While Mathews was the General Manager, “Red” was normally the Business Manager of the teams. He was always dressed impeccably with an overcoat and fedora and was often seen with a large cigar in his mouth. Mr. Mavety was also for many years the manager of Maher Shoe Store on Front Street, then later at the Quinte Mall, and was known to have sized shoes for a great many baby boomers in Belleville. I remember my mother saying when our shoes were worn out, “We need to take the kids in to see Red Mavety for shoes.” Tom “Red” Mavety was for anyone that knew him, a gentleman from head to toe.

Leo Culhane was the Deputy Fire Chief in Belleville for many years. During the 1950s, he was also known to have been a very strong organizer of boys minor softball. He set up a small ball field behind Number 2 Fire Hall on West Moira for boys games. I remember playing games there, and if Leo wasn’t the umpire himself, he had one of the on-duty firemen taking that role. One of his early young players was Belleville Hall of Famer, pitcher Bob “Shud” Ethier whom I played against. Leo Culhane died shortly after retiring from the Belleville Fire Department.

Garry “Scoop” Alexander was a staff sports reporter for the *Intelligencer* in the 1950s and 1960s. He was the understudy and protégé of legendary Sports Editor George Carver. His weekly sports column “Pinch Hitting” was popular for many years in Belleville. He could always be found at local ballparks and hockey rinks covering local league games. When Carver couldn’t, Garry travelled on the road with the famous Belleville McFarlands hockey team. I also recall him travelling with my team, the Point Anne Cementmen, in 1966 when we won an Ontario Championship in Western Ontario. A student of the game, he later was an accomplished softball coach in games at the Alemite Field. A life-long battle with diabetes ended his life in his forties.

Society Has Met Its Goal for The Archives

By Orland French

We finally did it! At our executive meeting in January, we topped up the Historical Society’s Ar-

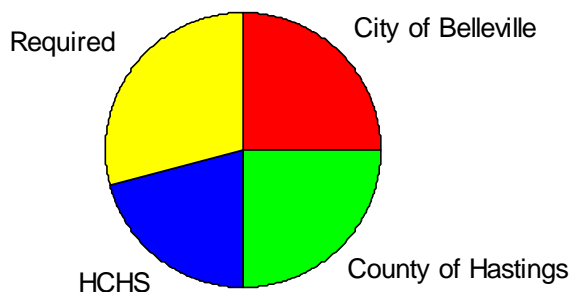
chives Capital Campaign fund at \$250,000, fulfilling our fiscal obligation for the construction of the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County. This will represent the Society’s contribution towards the \$1.2 million needed to convert the former Irish Hall on Church Street into a new archives centre.

Our two partners in this project are the City of Belleville and the County of Hastings. Under the leadership of the staff of the City of Belleville, both councils have been asked to commit a further \$150,000 each in 2013 to bring the total of actual and committed partnership funds to the project up to \$850,000 (\$300,000 city, \$300,000 county, \$250,000 HCHS). This would exceed the 60 per cent threshold level to permit application for a further \$350,000 federal Cultural Spaces Grant.

That application is to be filed this year when budgets of the city and the county have been approved. Results of the application will be unknown for perhaps another six months or longer. If the application is successful, tenders would be called in the fall for construction over the winter months of 2013–2014.

Source of Funding for New Archives

Source	Amount
City of Belleville	\$300,000
County of Hastings	\$300,000
HCHS	\$250,000
Required	\$350,000



Fundraising for this project has been more difficult than predicted for a number of reasons we did not anticipate.

The actual amount raised by the Society, including fundraising efforts over recent years, is well in excess of \$250,000. However, some of that money has been used to purchase computer equipment and furniture which will be transferred to the new Community Archives when it is completed. Other monies were

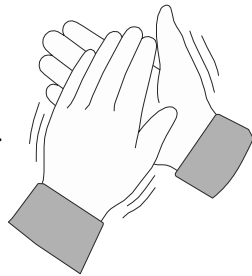
spent as expenses in the recent fundraising campaign.

Although the Community Archives does not yet have its new home, it is in fact operating. Archivist Sharon White and the Society's Archive Angels volunteer group are hard at work at the Heritage Centre in Cannifton. This aging building, the former Thurlow Township Hall, is owned by the City. The Centre is open to the public Tuesday to Thursday afternoons.

The worth of our volunteers' contributions cannot be overstated. The value of volunteer labour at the archives and in other Society ventures, based on a government formula, has been calculated at about \$100,000 a year. However, the value of the amassed knowledge and experience of the volunteers is beyond measure.

The Society's fundraising efforts and the work of the volunteers is a bonus for our municipal councils. In most jurisdictions the cost of building, maintaining and staffing an archives falls fully upon the municipality. Maintenance and operation of the new Community Archives will be entirely the responsibility of the County and City.

The Society's campaign headquarters on Front Street was closed in December. The Society wishes to thank our landlords Maurice Rollins and David Joyce for the free use of the store and Mike Malachowski of Funk & Gruven for the furnishings provided for it. Also, we would like to extend a big thanks to all of the volunteers who operated the headquarters over the past year and a half.



Our New Logo

By Nick White

One of the "invisible" tasks that the volunteers perform at the Heritage Centre is electronic restoration of records. Volunteers such as Kieran Delaney, Erin Ryan and Donna Fano spend many hours digitizing and restoring images and records both in response to research requests to our Community Archives and for the Society's many presentations and displays.

This month Donna Fano tackled our logo. And if you are viewing the coloured edition of *Outlook* on our web site, you will be able to see the wonderful transformation from the scanned image we have been using since 2002 to the new all-electronic version.

This work isn't simple or quick—the pen and scroll in the logo alone comprise fifty-seven individual hand-drawn elements that are assembled into the picture. But it looks wonderful!



Old Logo



New Logo

Phoenix Arising?

By Lindi Pierce

On December 21, 2012, the citizens of Belleville and area lost their historic Hotel Quinte. At the Quinte Mall on January 25 and 26, 2013, the volunteers of the Hastings County Historical Society/Community Archives gave it back. Intrepid researchers Lois Foster and Laurel Bishop established the timeline for the hotels Dafoe and Quinte and their long histories of tragic fires and triumphant rebuilding. The Archives tech team put together an outstanding display; informed and friendly volunteers welcomed hundreds of visitors.

The story goes back to 1847 when the three-



Dafoe House built in 1847

HC04622

storey stone Dafoe House was opened at the corner of Bridge and Pinnacle Streets. Fire was a constant danger in those oil-lamp days. The Dafoe House burned in 1855, reopened in 1857. A brick addition in 1873, a mansard roof and extra storey in 1879 added to the hotel's grandeur, but "the best house in the city" with its

fine décor and sumptuous menus burned a second time in 1886. Finally discouraged, William Dafoe sold the empty property to Henry Corby in 1887.



Hotel Quinte in 1908 (cropped)

HC04809

The Hotel Quinte story began without formal ceremony on February 28, 1895. Built by a consortium of local businessmen, the exquisitely outfitted hotel featuring marble floors and luxury appointments was destined to be “equal to anything in Toronto”. A calamitous fire in 1907 did not deter, and the grand reopening of an even finer hostelry on February 27, 1908 (an incredibly quick rise from the ashes!) featured a magnificent complimentary banquet to Mr. Harry Corby.



Hotel Quinte in 1980s

Intelligencer Fonds

Today the Hotel Quinte is a pile of rubble and an orphaned north wing. Do we have our ancestors' determination to rebuild after tragedy? Perhaps the Hotel Quinte will exist only in the records at the Community Archives.



Volunteer's Christmas Get Together

By Nick White

Since its inception the Society has relied on volunteers and this year sixty invitations were sent out for the Christmas celebration. And we managed to capture twenty-nine of them in this picture. Others were **captured in this album** but unfortunately a few either were away or arrived after the pictures were taken.

The volunteers create and run the displays we take to events (I think there were seven this year), manage the Society's eight monthly meetings - very popular this last year and, of course, they work at the Community Archives (it's still at the Heritage Centre).

Always a great event with lots of good company and food!



Standing: Mike Shaw, Al Cleary, Nick White, Bill Kennedy, Peter Ross, Annis Ross, Mary Wilson, Kieran Delaney, Mary Jane Throop, Jeanne Delaney, George Pearce, Sylvia French, Bev Kennedy, Doug Wilson, Lindi Pierce, Mary-Lynne Morgan, Bruce Bedell Orland French, Marilyn Hughes, Dick Hughes.

Seated: Sharon White, Elizabeth Mitchell, Lorna Garbutt, Donna Fano, Katharine Mills, Laurel Bishop, Adele Dibben, Lois Foster and Breanna Brethour.

Didn't make it into the group picture: Diane Sule, Gerry Boyce, John Lowry, Bobby-Jo Morris, Peter Newman, Doug Knutson, Beth Green, Marney Black, Ruth Boyce and Geoff Green.

Photo - N. White

Quinte Mall Display

By Donna Fano

On January 25 and 26, the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County hosted the annual Quinte Mall display near the information desk.

The main focus was on the history of the Dafoe House and Hotel Quinte, with a smaller focus on fires in Belleville and the Roaring Twenties. There was a tremendous interest by the public in the hotel which was one of Belleville's oldest landmarks. It was destroyed by a devastating fire on the night of December 20–21, 2012. Hundreds of people stopped by to view the display and talk to the Archive Angels.

Many thanks go to Lois Foster, Kieran Delaney, Erin Ryan, Nick White, Laurel Bishop and Sharon White for preparing the nine large displays of the History of Hotel Quinte. This took much time, and we were happy to see them catch up on their sleep! Many thanks also go to the eighteen HCHS volunteers for manning the display over the two-day period.

President's Comments on Annual Report

By Richard Hughes

Each year the preparation of the annual report, for presentation to the Annual General Meeting of the Society in January, gives us an opportunity to review the activities of the past year. We can enjoy the memories of past successes and ponder how to better achieve our goals of bringing the history of Belleville and Hastings County to life for all of our citizens in the coming year.

The major efforts of the Historical Society in 2012 were the eight monthly public presentations which brought a variety of guest speakers to consistently full houses; the newsletter *Outlook* which brought not only stories of our colourful history but also current news and announcements of coming events to the homes of members and to schools across our area; and the annual banquet which brought Al Capone to Belleville to celebrate his birthday with Quinte rumrunners and at the same time, raised a substantial amount for our Archives campaign.

Beyond these high profile events, our busy team of volunteers carried out many other projects and public activities while laying the groundwork for future activities. It was a very productive year in 2012; the full text of the annual report is available on the Society's website, and paper copies are available as well. I would encourage you to read the report and feel free to comment. Your ideas on how to improve our Society are always most welcome.



And a Very Special Thanks to Anne Rector

By Richard Hughes

The Historical Society can look back on a great year in 2012 piling up a record of successes in every direction. Much of this success is due to the determination, hard work and fresh ideas of the wonderful team of volunteers. In particular, we are indebted to Anne Rector who took on the tasks of Vice-President, print publicity and programs person.

We have been entertained, informed and sometimes amazed by the speakers at our monthly public events, and it was Anne who made the arrangements. The smooth flow of the presentations was possible only because every aspect of the preparations was so meticulously taken care of.

Anne also made a major contribution to the Annual Banquet, picking up on the rumrunner theme; she worked with a number of local wine producers to donate a wide selection of excellent products as prizes. Also, when you read the notices of the Society's coming events every time you picked up a newspaper or magazine, thanks again, Anne.



Anne stands with display of past speakers. Photo - N. White

Anne has decided to take some time off and will not be returning in 2013; however, she has left her jobs in wonderful shape and ready for new hands to carry the ball forward. All of the Directors appreciate Anne's valuable contribution, and we are sure that the large and growing number of participants in the Society's events join in sending our heartfelt thanks.

Ghost Towns & Pioneer Villages in Our Backyard

Hastings County Historical Society
ANNUAL BUS TOUR
Saturday, May 4, 2013 (Sold out)
Saturday, June 1, 2013

Come away for the day and be transported back in time as you explore the mysterious disappearance of many of the thriving villages of 19th and early 20th century Hastings County.

Our resident sleuth, Bill Hunt, and other colourful commentators, will give you the scoop on what our County used to be like. Find out why some communities survived and others didn't!

Your ticket includes a delicious lunch and

lots of fun as you explore the secrets of life in Point Anne, what put Deseronto on the map in two world wars, examine the remains and ruins to be found in the previously bustling little communities of Lonsdale, Melrose, Read, Sulphide and Thom-asburg. Learn about the now non-existent hamlet of Duff Corners. As May 4 bus tour sold out quickly, a second bus tour has been arranged for June 1. Space is now available for this one.

Book your own seat and consider giving an interesting experience rather than "stuff" to that someone who is so hard to buy for. - Gift Certificates are available. - **Cost \$65.**

For more information or to place your reservation, call Mary-Lynne Morgan, 613-961-7091 or email at mameml@sympatico.ca.



Hastings County Historical Society Presentation

Special Guest Speaker:

Paul Kirby,

Speaking on his new book, *Mary Aylward*

Topic: Murder in North Hastings: The Aylwards' Trial and Executions

In December 1862, young Catholic settlers, **Mary and Richard Aylward**, were hanged side-by-side at Belleville, for the murder of a North Hastings neighbour. Were they guilty of murder, or victims of religious intolerance?

Date: Tuesday, February 19, 2012
Time: 7:30 p m

Location: Quinte Living Centre Auditorium
(North Corner Door)
370 Front Street, Belleville

Bring a friend!

Contact Person: president@hastingshistory.ca

Website: www.hastingshistory.ca

HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIRECTORS

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HCHS Website	www.hastingshistory.ca
Heritage Centre Phone No.	613-962-1110

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