



# BATTLE HONOUR BULLETIN

No. 1, JANUARY 2012

*THEY FOUGHT FOR YOU - WILL YOU FIGHT FOR THEM?*

## WHO ARE WE?

HONOUR OUR 1812 HEROES is a group of concerned Canadians who wish to recognize the valour of the Canadian units that fought in the War of 1812 by securing the award of Battle Honours for those units of the modern army that perpetuate them.

## WHAT IS A BATTLE HONOUR?

The official definition is that a Battle Honour is a distinction "awarded to provide public recognition and to record a combatant unit's active participation in battle against a formed and armed enemy." A Battle Honour normally takes the form of a scroll enclosing the name and date of the battle and they can be placed on the Colours of a military unit, which are its most treasured possession.

## OUR GOALS

HONOUR OUR 1812 HEROES has three goals:

- *To obtain the award by Canada of a theatre Battle Honour "DEFENCE OF CANADA, 1812-1815" (or "DEFENSE DU CANADA, 1812-1815") for every modern militia armour and infantry unit east of Manitoba as a symbol that these units perpetuate the memory of the Canadian militia of Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland that served during the conflict.*
- *To obtain the award by Canada of six Battle Honours to modern Canadian Army units that perpetuate those units of the War of 1812 which fought in the following engagements: Detroit, 1812; Queenston Heights, 1812; Miami, 1813; Châteauguay, 1813; Crysler's Farm, 1813 and Lundy's Lane, 1814.*

- *To accomplish these goals by 18 June 2012, the day that the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 commences.*

## **DND ALWAYS SAYS "NO"**

Unfortunately, the Department of National Defence stands against these goals. DND has consistently refused to grant any Battle Honours for military engagements that took place before Confederation in 1867. Their reasons for doing so have never been clearly stated but it would appear that sometime after the First World War a bureaucratic decision was made that no Canadian military units officially existed before 1855 and so could not be awarded Battle Honours for battles that occurred before that date. Once this decision-deplored by many historians and ordinary Canadians-was made, DND has spent more time, energy and money defending it rather than contemplating changing it. For nearly a century, attempts by Canadian regiments to obtain pre-Confederation Battle Honours have met with lengthy paragraphs of bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo followed by the word "No."

## **CAN IT BE PUT MORE SIMPLY?**

The matter of military honours and awards is a very complicated business and the bureaucrats of DND like to keep it that way to confuse the unwary. The matter of War of 1812 Battle Honours, however, is fairly simple and is well explained by the video that can be viewed at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWICTCgPXXCM>

## **DND MAY SAY "NO" BUT THE GOVERNMENT SAYS "YES"**

By providing millions to commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, the government of Canada is proposing to honour "the heroic efforts of those who fought for our country in 1812-1815." Specifically, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has stressed that he wishes DND to recognize "the War of 1812 heritage" of Canadian military units.

To the HOH group and its many supporters, this means the award of Battle Honours. But DND has only offered to create a "ceremonial distinction" of "Defence of Canada, 1812-1815"- a much lesser award than a Battle Honour and one not placed on regimental Colours. DND also proposes to distribute nylon souvenir banners and metal lapel pins to modern units, aboriginal groups and military personnel.

Contrary to popular rumour, however, it must be emphasized that DND has no plans to distribute bumper stickers or fridge magnets to commemorate the War of 1812.

## **MAYBE THERE IS HOPE FOR DND YET**

With good reason, the HOH group has been very critical of DND-particularly those responsible - over the issue of War of 1812 Battle Honours because we feel it is a national disgrace. However, as regards commemorating the Bicentennial, other components of DND and the Canadian Forces are contemplating worthwhile and laudable initiatives.

For example, the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, stationed at CFB Gagetown is planning, along with New Brunswick militia regiments to re-enact the famous overland winter march of the 104th Regiment of Foot from Fredericton to Quebec City two centuries after it first took place in February and March 1813.

Staff at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston are in the early stages of forming a unit of cadets that will re-enact the Royal Newfoundland Fencible Infantry of the War of 1812, which saw action from Cornwall west to Ohio in 1812-1815 on land and sea. This unit will be uniformed, armed and equipped exactly as were the wartime unit. Ironically, twice in the last decade DND has refused the request of The Royal Newfoundland Regiment, which perpetuates the Newfoundland Fencibles of 1812 for a Battle Honour. Let's hope things change in the near future.

The HOH group supports these two worthwhile projects and is willing to contribute our specialized expertise to assisting their success.

### **STOP PRESS! DND JUST MIGHT BE RECONSIDERING**

The HOH group has recently learned that DND might actually be considering the award of the Battle Honour, "NIAGARA, 1814" (the battle of Lundy's Lane, 25 July 1814) to certain selected Ontario militia regiments. We do not have a complete list of these units but have learned that the apparent reason for this decision is because the modern units involved can claim to have raised companies for-and can therefore claim to perpetuate-the Incorporated Militia, a near regular unit of the war. If this is so, however, it is puzzling why the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders are not among the units so honoured as nearly 40% of the strength of the Incorporated Militia was raised in those three counties.

Perhaps DND has something else in mind for that unit ... stay tuned.



**FORGOTTEN BATTLE: CRYSLER'S FARM, 1813**

In the last few years a ceremony has been held every Remembrance Day at the memorial to the battle of Crysler's Farm which sits atop its high mound overlooking the St. Lawrence River. What began as the decision of a few individuals has expanded over the years to the point where, as the photo shows, dozens of people showed up last November to honour those who fell at this battle.

Crysler's Farm was an important victory in the War of 1812 because it helped to end the most serious American offensive launched against Canada. It also saw francophone and anglophone Canadian militiamen and soldiers, and allied warriors from the Mississauga and Mohawk nations, fight alongside British regulars on a grey, wet 11 November 1813. Crysler's Farm has never received a Battle Honour although one was applied for, but it did receive the distinction of being made a clasp to the 1847 Army General Service Medal, awarded 34 years after the battle.

The HOH group wants Canada to recognize and commemorate this notable battle which involved Canadians of the two major language groups and their First Nations allies by promulgating a Battle Honour -a recognition that is long overdue.

## **COME AND TALK TO US AT THE WAR OF 1812 SYMPOSIUM AT GUELPH IN FEBRUARY**

Members of the HOH steering committee will be making an appearance at the War of 1812 Symposium to be held at the University of Guelph on 24-25 February. Come and talk to us and also listen to an excellent roster of speakers. You can find registration information at <http://livinghistoryconference.com/>

## **CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE**

Visit the website of Honour our 1812 Heroes which contains information on the subject of War of 1812 Battle Honours and biographies of notable veterans. The site also permits you to send an email to the Honourable Peter Mackay, Minister of Defence, stating your support for our cause. Visit us at [http://www.warof1812.ca/heroes/index\\_e.htm](http://www.warof1812.ca/heroes/index_e.htm)

## **OUR PROJECT DOES NOT "CHEAPEN" BATTLE HONOURS**

One of the reasons we often hear why DND is against our goals-besides the usual bureaucratic inertia-is that the distribution of numerous Battle Honours to modern military units somehow "cheapens" the system of Battle Honours, making them a lesser distinction. We think nothing could be farther from the truth and that commemorating the successful defence of Canada against foreign aggression and commemorating the Canadian units that carried out that defence is no "cheap" thing.

In the end, what it is all about is not winning or losing a bureaucratic struggle that we should not even have to fight. What it is about are the persons whose names are on the attached list of Canadians who died on active service in the War of 1812, and their wives and children. This is far from "cheapening" the system.

The HOH group is speaking for these people, who cannot speak for themselves. We do this because they really are the true Fathers and Mothers of Confederation because, if they had not fought and sacrificed in those dark years nearly two centuries ago, modern Canada would not exist today.

## *THEY FOUGHT FOR YOU, WILL YOU FIGHT FOR THEM?*

A list of widows and orphans of Canadian servicemen who died during the War of 1812 follows:

**MILITIA PENSION AGENT'S OFFICE, York, 1st October, 1817.**

THE General agent for paying MILITIA Pensions having received the sum of Eight Thousand Pounds, in aid thereof; hereby gives Notice that the same are now in course of issue, agreeable to the following Lists —

**LIST of Widows whose Husbands have been Killed in Action, or by any Casualty or Accident while on Duty, or have Died of Wounds received in Action, or from Disease contracted on Actual Service during the late War with the United States of America.**

NAME of WIDOW.	NAME AND RANK of LATE HUSBAND.		Service or Reg't to which he belonged.	Action in which, or how Killed, or Deceased and when.		Period for which Pension is in course of Payment.		Canada Currency Dollars &c.	
	NAME.	RANK.		ACTED ON.	WHEN.	FROM.	TO.		
ADAMS, Mary	Samuel Adams	Private	2d Lincoln	Chippewa	29th July	1814	1st January	1817	20 0 0
Adair, Phoebe	John Adair	do	do	do	29th December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Augustine, Sophie	Abel Augustine	do	1st Essex	Fort Mifflin	21st April	'13	do	do	20 0 0
BOEDT, M. Madeline	Laurence Boudy	Captain	do	Fort Mifflin	21st April	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Bosch, Margaret	Adriaan Bosch	do	do	Casualty	27th October	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Bullock, Nancy	Peter Bullock	Private	1st Essex	Silver Spring	21st January	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Burke, Margaret	Joseph Burke	do	2d Lincoln	Chippewa	29th July	'14	do	do	20 0 0
Clawson, Mary	Lucas Clawson	do	2d do	do	29th July	'14	do	do	20 0 0
Baker, Susan	Johnson Baker	Lieut. Colonel	4th do	Dundas	1st December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Brown, Barbara	James Brown	Private	2d York	do	20th December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Brown, Eleanor	Marion Brown	do	1st Lincoln	do	10th April	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Burn, Tacey	Joseph Burn	Sergeant	2d Lincoln	do	2d December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Bro, Susannah	Joseph Bro	Private	do	do	2d December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Brown, Catherine	Wheeler Brown	Teamster	do	do	4th February	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Brown, Martha	William Brown	Private	1st Norfolk	do	15th March	'15	do	do	20 0 0
Buchanan, Elizabeth	James Buchanan	Captain	1st Essex	do	19th September	'18	do	do	20 0 0
Brighton, Letitia	James Brighton	Private	do	Middlesex	13th August	'14	15th August	14th December	25 42 12 3 12
do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	20 0 0
CARROLL, Nancy	John Carroll	Captain	do	Casualty	27th August	'14	1st January	21st December	17 20 0 0
Coghell, Elizabeth	George Coghell	Private	1st Lincoln	Lundy's Lane	23rd July	'14	do	do	20 0 0
Clements, Mary	Adam Clements	do	2d Lincoln	Fort Erie	29th November	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Coon, Mary	John Coon	do	2d do	Dundas	2d January	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Clark, Mary	John Clark	do	2d do	do	4th December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Clements, Hannah	Ab'm Clements	do	1st Lincoln	do	4th October	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Cabarrero, Ann	Pierre Cabarrero	do	Incorporated	do	28th February	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Campbell, Nancy	William Campbell	Teamster	1st Glasgow	do	1st March	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Carroll, Rachel	Edward Carroll	Private	Haring	do	23rd January	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Cole, Elizabeth	Abraham Cole	do	Lons	do	21st December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Carpenter, Sophia	James Carpenter	Sergeant	4th Lincoln	do	26th January	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Cook, Mary M.	George Cook	Teamster	2d do	do	4th December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Cope, Frances	William Cope	Private	1st Norfolk	do	6th March	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Corbin, Mary	Elyseus Corbin	do	Incorporated	do	12th March	'14	12th March	14th December	25 16 2 3
do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	20 0 0
DETLOR, Jerusha	John Detlor	Private	2d York	do	1st January	'17	1st December	17	20 0 0
Dunn, Elizabeth	Joseph Dunn	do	York	do	27th April	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Durby, Freedom	Isidore Durby	do	2d Lincoln	Dundas	January	'13	do	do	20 0 0
ELLIS, Margaret	David Ellis	do	Adirongton	do	11th March	'13	do	do	20 0 0
do	do	do	Oxford	do	27th October	'15	27th October	15th December	16 61 12 4
do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	20 0 0
FORSTH, Hannah	James Forst	do	2d Lincoln	Chippewa	29th July	'14	do	do	20 0 0
Frazer, Catherine	William Frazer	Captain	1st Grenville	Dundas	27th May	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Farrington, Catherine	Samuel Farrington	Private	Prince Edw.	do	31st December	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Forbes, Ann	Adam Forbes	do	do	do	5th March	'14	2d March	18th December	25 16 9 10
GRASS, Mary	Michael Grass	do	1st Lincoln	do	17th December	'12	1st January	17th December	17 20 0 0
Grass, Mary	George Grass	do	do	do	20th May	'13	20th May	13th December	17 21 16 8 12
do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	20 0 0
Grant, Mary	William Grant	do	1st Glasgow	do	18th February	'13	1st January	17th December	17 20 0 0
Green, Margaret	Samuel Green	do	2d York	Casualty	29th July	'13	6th July	13th December	16 60 16 1
do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	20 0 0
HAINES, Catherine	George Haines	Lieutenant	1st Lincoln	Dundas	29th November	'14	1st January	17th December	17 20 0 0
Hamer, Sophia	Zachariah Hamer	Private	do	do	2d February	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Hamer, Harriet	David Hamer	do	do	do	2d October	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Hull, Elizabeth	Kath Hull	do	Incorporated	do	June	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Hobert, or Hebert, Martha	Isaac Hebert	do	4th Lincoln	do	November	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Hambro, Elizabeth	Yves Hambro	do	2d Grenville	do	24th February	'11	do	do	20 0 0
Hicks, Elizabeth	Joseph Hicks	do	Prince Edw.	do	24th October	'11	do	do	20 0 0
Hager, Anselm	Jonathan Hager	do	do	do	24th October	'11	do	do	20 0 0
Hart, Hannah	Richard Hart	Teamster	2d Lincoln	do	24th October	'11	do	do	20 0 0
QUINCY, Anna	John Quincy	Private	1st Essex	do	1st October	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Quinn, Elizabeth	Truman Quinn	Sergeant	4th Lincoln	do	2d December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
LENG, Barbara	George King	Lieutenant	2d York	do	2d December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Lindsay, Susannah	Duke William Kendrick	Private	2d York	do	December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
Lyon, Sarah	Asael Lyon	Private	1st Leeds	do	1st January	'13	do	do	20 0 0
do	do	do	do	do	14th July	'12	14th July	15th December	16 60 7 4 14
do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	20 0 0
AMBURNER, Catherine	Alexander Amburner	do	4th Lincoln	do	12th August	'14	do	do	20 0 0
Attridge, Nancy	John Attridge	Captain	2d Lincoln	do	29th November	'12	do	do	20 0 0
A Tour, Charlotte	Joseph La Tour	Private	2d Lincoln	do	21st March	'13	do	do	20 0 0
McDONNELL, Susannah	Christopher McDonnell	Lieutenant	2d Lincoln	Chippewa	29th July	'14	do	do	20 0 0
Murray, Frances	David Murray	Private	2d York	York	27th April	'13	do	do	20 0 0
May, Dorothy	John May	Lieutenant	1st Lincoln	Dundas	9th November	'12	do	do	20 0 0
McDONNELL, Nancy	Donald McDonnell	do	do	do	20th March	'12	do	do	20 0 0
McDougal, Margaret	Donald McDougal	Teamster	2d Glasgow	do	1st February	'13	do	do	20 0 0
McGowan, Sarah	Colin McGowan	do	2d Glasgow	do	12th December	'12	do	do	20 0 0
McLean, Mary	Comelius Marks	Sergeant	Oxford	do	1st January	'13	do	do	20 0 0
Miller, Therese	Allen Miller	Private	Kent	Casualty	1st February	'13	do	do	20 0 0
do	James Miller	Act'g Sailing Master	1st Prov't	Dundas	9th October	'14	do	do	20 0 0