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**Museum Hours**

The Museum is open daily, except for:  
New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday,  
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

May-October: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
November-April: 1 p.m. to 5p.m.

**The Society & Museum wish to thank the Town  
of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the  
Province of Ontario for their ongoing support**



The 2011 monthly Lecture Series is generously  
sponsored by:



**Spring 2011 Newsletter**

**The Year of Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake**

**HOLIDAY EVENTS**



*Sheila Tierney and Carol & Brad Nixon at the Phoenix Dinner*

This holiday season was again a very busy time at the Museum! Our Third Annual Phoenix Dinner was another great success! Although we didn't sell as many tickets as in 2009, many guests expressed that it was our best one yet!!

Memorial Hall was decorated as a 19th century tavern complete with wench and fiddler. The three-course dinner was catered by Chef Ryan Crawford of the Stone Road Grille and wine and beer was provided courtesy of Inniskillin, Jackson-Triggs and Great Lakes Brewery. The event raised over \$5000 for the Society through the support of, Simply Beautiful Décor, Royal Linen Service and the many donors to our silent auction.

A huge thank you to the committee of volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a success and to all who attended!

The Society also partnered with local actors for another great holiday reading. Guy Bannerman, Patty Jamieson, Madeline Kennedy, Jamie Mainprize, Peter Millard, Jennifer Phipps and Barbara Worthy presented "Miracle on Queen Street", a NOTL inspired adaptation of the Christmas classic.

We are so pleased to have been able to partner with local talent for the past several years and offer unique performances for the community. We look forward to another show in 2011!

*Guy Bannerman as Kris Kringle and Madeline Kennedy as Susan*



**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- **March 3 - 1812**  
*Lecture 10 am*
- **March 17 - 1812**  
*Lecture 10 am*
- **March 17 -**  
*Lecture 7:30 pm*
- **March 21 -**  
*A Tribute to Brian Doherty, 6:30 pm*
- **March 31 - 1812**  
*Lecture 10 am*
- **April 14 - 1812**  
*Lecture 10 am*
- **April 21 -**  
*Lecture 7:30 pm*
- **April 28 - 1812**  
*Lecture 10 am*
- **May 12 - 1812**  
*Lecture 10 am*
- **May 19 -**  
*Lecture 7:30 pm*

## FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR - 2010: A YEAR IN REVIEW

### Research

The Society continued its research in preparation for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812. Consequently, we now have a list of possible property owners, including biographies, during the period prior to the Town burning in 1813. We also have the War Claims for the Town and Township property owners digitized and indexed for researchers to investigate.

### Exhibitions

The Museum held three major exhibitions in our temporary exhibition gallery during 2010. They were the "Forgotten Years"- focusing on artists depicting Niagara from 1929-1973, "Village Life"- exploring the villages of Queenston, St. Davids, Virgil, McNab and Homer, and the "Art of Architecture"- the Doors Open Niagara 2009 photo contest winners supplemented with photographic collections.

### Collections Management

The Museum acquired 328 items over the past year from 45 separate donors. These items include Virgil and Queenston Women's Institute Minute books and scrapbooks,

items from the recently closed Niagara District Secondary School, Parliament Oak School as well as many other local photographs. A number of World War I photographs and sewing samplers were also uploaded to the ourontario.ca database.

In February 2010, the Museums of Niagara Association launched the 1812history.com website. Currently, our entire 1812 collection can be accessed through this site as well as the 1812 collections of other Niagara Museums.

### Events

Our lecture series continued to be well attended in 2010 with the focus on the villages of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Society hosted a wonderful variety of very distinguished speakers and, perhaps the most fun, three night for the residents to reminisce about life in the villages.

The Society also held the Radio Noir event put on by local actors with original scripts from the popular Dick Barton radio series.

The Museum also took part in the Town's Christmas Parade

with volunteers walking in period costume.

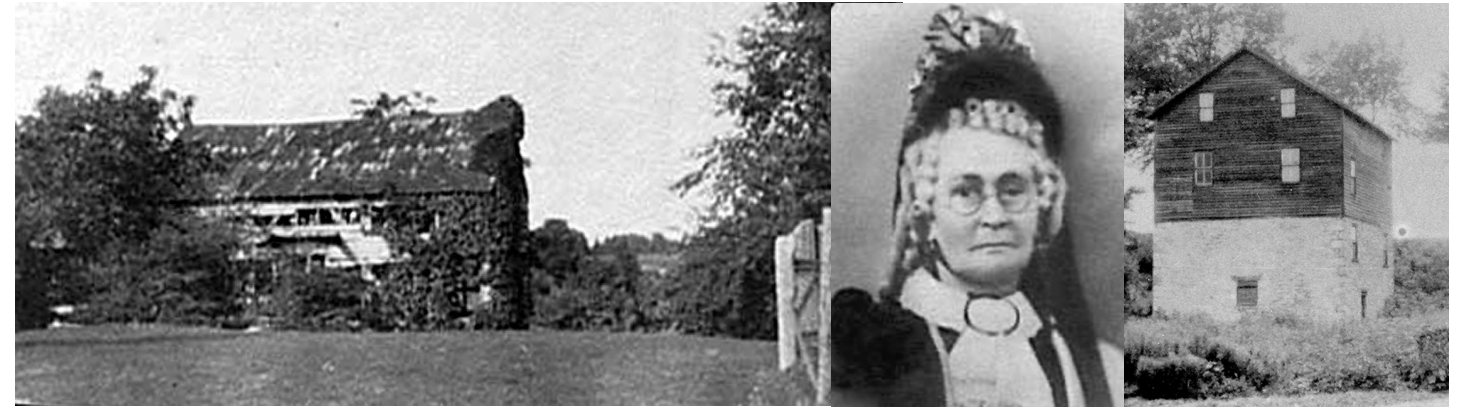
### Phoenix Circle

The Phoenix Circle continued to grow last year with new members Peter & Molly Enns and David & Dr. Dianne Hemmings. In 2010 the Phoenix Circle events included a visit to Lake Lodge (the Addison House), which is owned by Ed Werner, and a conversation on Victorian Winter Apparel with Rita Brown accompanied by tea.

Phoenix Circle Members have committed themselves to the future success of the Society by contributing to the ongoing costs associated with owning and operating one of Ontario's most important local history collections.



Above: Phoenix Circle members Dr. Dianne Hemmings, Elizabeth Surtees and Dennis Kam at Lake Lodge



The War of 1812-14 brought more hardships to these women. Few Niagara settlers abandoned their homes or farms in the War of 1812-14, likely recalling the pain of having done so during the American Revolution. Sometime during the American occupation of Fort George between May and Dec, 1813 a group of eleven American cavalry rode out to the Servos farm and commandeered the tannery barns for horse stables. Elizabeth was home alone as her sons were all away serving as officers in the First Lincoln Militia. They ransacked her house and on turning up a bed discovered a new regimental red coat of Capt. John D. Servos. This they slashed with their swords while making derisive remarks in the process.

Elizabeth called the Americans cowards - they would not have dared look at the coat had her son been wearing it. On hearing that, the officer in command struck Elizabeth violently on the breast with the hilt of his sword, inflicting severe damage which she would suffer from chronically until her death eight years later.

The Americans burned the Servos mill but left the house and barns standing though ransacked. The nearby Pickard mill served as a field hospital for both sides but it too was eventually burned to the ground. The Servos mill was rebuilt after the war and operated by John D. Servos but it burned again by accident along with the sawmill on March 30, 1818.<sup>2</sup>

A third "Servos" mill was built on the same site as the second at some expense using the new principles of automated elevators to move grain, bran and flour between the floors. John D. Servos died in 1847 and operation of the mills was immediately taken over by his son Peter Claus Servos (1822-1887).

### Mary [Ball] Servos (1827-1905)

Peter Servos was a prominent member of the community, the local militia and was appointed Justice of the Peace for Niagara Township. But he mortgaged the mills almost to the point of insolvency and was unfaithful to his wife Mary<sup>3</sup>. The couple became legally separated and the Servos farm and mills were transferred to Mary's name sometime after 1875. But the land was so financially encumbered by Peter that Mary did not obtain clear title to it until 1892.

Mary raised her four children at the farm and hired outside labour to run the mills and the blacksmith shop. Documents in the Museum collection show that Mary kept meticulous records of the farm and mill businesses. Peter Servos died in 1887 but Mary was not included as a beneficiary in his will.<sup>4</sup> She therefore found it necessary to mortgage the farm in the amount of \$3000 in 1887 but had the debt paid off and discharged by 1898.

Mary refused to allow her husband's burial in the family graveyard at the rear of the farm. Peter was buried at St. Marks, thereby making him the first Servos from Four Mile Creek to

be buried outside the Servos family graveyard.

Mary joined the UE Loyalists Association in 1899 and renamed the Servos farm "Palatine Hill". Also around that time she became friends with Janet Carnochan who published an article called "Palatine Hill" in the Museum's Booklet No. 5. Mary died in 1905 and is buried on the farm in the family graveyard.

The old Servos mill ceased running after her death, then collapsed during a storm in 1911.

By Robert Miller, January 2011

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Including land patent searches by Joy Ormsby.

<sup>2</sup> The Gleaner, April 2, 1818, quoted by Janet Carnochan in **Niagara One Hundred Years Ago: the Ancient Capital and Its Vicinity**, p.27, published by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, 1892, <http://openlibrary.org/>

<sup>3</sup> The Toronto Globe, October 25, 1880, quoted by J. Anthony Doyle in **Loyalism, Patronage and Enterprise: The Servos Family in British North America 1726-1942**, Ph.D. Thesis., McMaster University, 2006, p. 292.

<sup>4</sup> Probate of will of Peter Claus Servos, **Ontario Archives**, quoted by J. Anthony Doyle, Ph.D. Thesis, *ibid.*, p. 295

Pictured above from left to right: Servos Mill, Mary Servos and Hannah Secord's Mill

## THE WOMEN MILL OPERATORS OF FOUR MILE CREEK

The Museum's collection of documents and photographs reveals many surprises. One of the most curious is that the first water-powered "King's Mills" on Four Mile Creek were eventually owned and managed by women - often the wives of the original millers.

Many of the first mills on Four Mile Creek were designed and built by UE Loyalists and retired soldiers following the American Revolution. Owing perhaps to the rigorous demands of frontier warfare, several of the men including Capt. Daniel Servos, Pvt. William Pickard and Sgt. Stephen Secord died relatively young leaving family mills to be run by their wives and children. To make matters worse, the War of 1812-14 tested the mettle of these women left alone to face the undisciplined marauding rabble within the American army of occupation.

The war caused several mills to be managed out of necessity by women and for two of the oldest mills on the Four Mile Creek (Peter Secord's & Daniel Servos') this practise continued for a century following the 1814 Treaty of Ghent.

### ST. DAVIDS

Peter Secord's original grist mill, built in 1783 in St. Davids, is a case in point. It was operated from 1809 by Hannah [DeForest] Secord, widow of Sgt. Stephen Secord of Butler's Rangers, a professional miller. Hannah Secord's mill was the only mill not destroyed by the Americans when they burned much of the village on July 18, 1814. Whatever happened, a tough-minded Hannah Secord likely defied the American marauders at the door of her mill on that day. The mill building survives along with its oak hurst frame and as a testament to her courage it was designated in 2003 under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Hannah Secord survived the war and continued managing the old Peter Secord mill for over 26 years to 1833. Eliza Woodruff, widow of miller James Counter Woodruff, ran it for 21 years to 1889 followed by Sarah Gertrude Black who ran it for another long period of 26 years until her death in 1915 when the mill finally became inoperative.

### LAKESHORE ROAD

Elizabeth [Johnson] Servos (1749-1821) & Elizabeth [Windemoed] Pickard (1738-1797)

There were three "Servos" grist mills over the years near the mouth Four Mile Creek at Lake Ontario. All sold flour and other mill products to local farmers, Fort George, and to flour agents William & James Crooks of Newark. The first mill operated by Capt. Daniel Servos

(1738-1803) was a combined grist and sawmill sitting on one wing of a dam erected by the King in 1783 on the Military Reserve near what is now the Lakeshore Road bridge. The mill was controlled by various commanders of the military post at Fort Niagara and operated by Capt. Servos of the Indian Department from 1785. He worked the mill until the spring of 1790 when it was destroyed along with the dam during a spring flood on Four Mile Creek.

The King's Mill was not rebuilt but Capt. Servos successfully petitioned the government to operate a new mill which he'd erected without authority on unpatented lands at the urging of his neighbours. The new millseat was beside his home-stead slightly upstream from where the original King's Mill had stood. This second "Servos" gristmill, built in 1791/92, continued to use water power from the creek but employed an ingenious by-pass weir/dam and pond system further upstream. The

upstream weir diverted part of the Creek down a head-race across a glacial oxbow and onto a vertical wheel in the mill. This design placed the mill itself well away from the main creek channel, thereby protecting it from the flash floods that occurred in those days.

With government permission granted, the Servos mill soon became the hub of a farmers' service centre known locally as "Four Mile Creek Mills". This enterprise grew to include a general store, salt works, tannery, blacksmith shop, weaving business, buttery, potash works, malt grindery, cider mill, sawmill and a structural timber squaring operation.

Daniel Servos died in 1803 aged 65, leaving his wife Elizabeth with a young family including teenager John Dease Servos (1785-1847) and eleven year old Daniel Kerr Servos (1792-1857). The Servos Mill Ledgers in the Museum collection show that Elizabeth Servos and these two of her three sons immediately assumed operation of the mill complex following Daniel's death. Elizabeth even tackled a nagging legal dispute over land ownership at the mill dam by successfully petitioning Lt. Governor Peter Hunter to settle the issue, thus allowing the mill to continue running with assured water power.

The 1804 death of their elderly neighbour William Pickard (1727-1804), owner/operator of another grist mill just upstream to the south, created severe hardship for Elizabeth Pickard, aged 66, and her family of three daughters and two young sons. The Servos Mill Ledgers show that Elizabeth graciously provided employment for "the widow Pickard & Son Benjamin hauling wood, boiling potash, working at the ash house and buttery".

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT -Neil Rumble

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members and guests who have made our first two lectures on the War of 1812. The turnouts have been nothing short of spectacular, in part thanks to the topics and guest speakers. We achieved attendances of 91 and 103 for our first two talks and we anticipate equal support for the remaining six. We also had 24 new memberships to the Society as a result!

The Historical Society is proud to be able to host this lecture series and thanks must go to Sarah and Amy. Thanks ladies!

## PHOENIX CIRCLE

In January, the Phoenix Circle met for a special presentation by our Managing Director, Sarah Maloney and Museum volunteer, Glenn Smith. Glenn completed the research of our entire 1812 collection and chose some key items to show the group. Sarah also picked out some of her favourite 1812 pieces and both explained the significance of these items and gave the group a sneak peak at some of the things that will be on display during the Bicentennial years. If you are interested on becoming a part of the Phoenix Circle, please contact the Museum for more information on this special group of donors.



# 1812 LECTURE SERIES

## February - May, 2011

**February 3:** David Webb - *The Battle of Fort George*

**February 17:** Cecilia Morgan - *The War of 1812 and its Aftermath: Gender, Race, and the Colonial Context*

**March 3:** David Hemmings - *The Life & Family of Laura Secord*

**March 17:** Ron Dale - *Disputed Victory: Did anyone win the War of 1812?*

**March 31:** Keith Jamieson - *Contemporary Concepts of Commemoration at Six Nations*

**April 14:** Doug Decroix - *Time Lag, A Flag and the Right to Brag: Some American Perspectives on the War of 1812*

**April 28:** Wes Turner - *The Life & Death of Isaac Brock*

**May 12:** Julia Roberts - *The War of 1812: Local Historians and Local Histories*

Lectures start at 10:00 a.m. and include light refreshments. \$5.00 per person or **free for Niagara Historical Society Members and volunteers.**

**Niagara Historical Society & Museum**  
43 Castlereagh Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
905.468.3912

The Niagara Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of:

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**RAFFLE WINNERS!!!!**

Congratulations to the winners of the Niagara Historical Society Annual Christmas Hamper Raffle. First Prize, Beth Redden of Simcoe and Second Prize, Joan Allen of St. Catharines. The 2010 raffle raised \$1000 for the Society. Thanks to everyone who donated to our hampers!!

Lapinski, Irene  
 Magnacca, Allan  
 Mainprize, James & Virginia  
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 Munkley, Doug  
 Murray, Lois  
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 Reimer, Susan  
 Reynolds, James  
 The Ladies of St. Mark's  
 Turner, Wesley  
 Wood, Patricia

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Chamberlain, Dean & Mary Jane  
 Enns, Amalie  
 Hemmings, David  
 Mitchell, Sally  
 Pritchard, David  
 Torrance, Margaret

**Memoriam**

Blackwood, Rosemarie in  
 Memory of John Ormsby  
 Merritt, Dr. Richard & Nancy in  
 Memory of Phyllis Dean

**In Kind**

Bella Grace  
 Blackwood, Rosemarie  
 Boulton, Ruth & Terry  
 Cecil's Home & Gift  
 Corbiere, Peter  
 Creekside Estate Winery

Forsythe, Doug & Marsha  
 Gill, Peter  
 Goodwin, Ken & Nicole  
 Howe, Marsha  
 James, Kelly & Janet  
 Johnson, Perry  
 Klassen, Amy  
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 Maloney, Sarah  
 Masson, Betsy  
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 Music Niagara  
 Nixon, Carol  
 Nixon, Peter  
 Packard, Victor  
 Paine, Deborah  
 Parliament, Isabelle  
 Pekar, Tom  
 Rance, Julian  
 Rednall, John  
 Rigby, Caroline  
 Rumble, Neil  
 Shaw Festival  
 Surtees, Elizabeth  
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 Packard, Victor  
 Ratkovsky, Helen  
 Rigby, Caroline  
 Simon, Pat  
 Singer, Lance  
 Slingerland, Don & Ginny  
 Smith, Glenn  
 Trowell, Ian  
 Valderrama, Israel  
 Virgil Women's Institute  
 Wilson, Rob  
 Wood, Pat  
 Woodruff, Gloria



In celebration of the 50th season of the Shaw Festival, Bill Schmuck, Designer Director at the Shaw is developing an exhibition that will be on display at the Museum from mid-March until mid-September. We are excited to host this display as our major exhibition of 2011 and will invite you to an opening when details are finalized.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Society will be holding our monthly lecture series to celebrate the *Year of Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake*. Lectures take place at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month from March to September and are free for Society members (\$5 for non-members). *The 2011 lecture series is sponsored by Niagara's Finest Inns.*

March 17 - Nancy Butler: The History of the Shaw Festival  
 April 21 - Cameron Porteous  
 May 19 - Jackie Maxwell: The 50th Season  
 June 16 - Bill Schmuck: Mounting the 50th Exhibition  
 July 21 - Michael Wallace of the Theatre Museum of Canada  
 August 18 - TBA  
 September 15 - TBA

To kick off our celebration of the Festival's 50th season we present A TRIBUTE TO BRIAN DOHERTY: FOUNDER OF THE SHAW FESTIVAL, and invite you to the Canadian premiere reading of Brian Doherty's play "Father Malachy's Miracle" on **Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30pm.** This play was produced at the St. James's theatre in New York in 1937 and ran for over 300 performances.

Enjoy this adaptation with members past and present of The Shaw Ensemble and other local talent. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served followed by the reading. Tickets are \$20.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. Call today to reserve your space as tickets are limited!

Plans are also in the works for a series of events that will complement the 50th season with nine shows on Friday nights in June and July. Produced by Barbara Worthy, these performances and readings are a salute to the work of Shaw. More information on this series will follow.