

War of 1812 Veterans Honoured With Graveside Plaques



A group of descendants of Isaac Ferriss and William Hutchins, two men who served in the War of 1812, gathered in Harrow and Colchester last weekend to honour their ancestors by placing a War of 1812 grave marker at each of the men's grave sites. Pictured above are descendants of Isaac Ferriss.

by Heather Marentette

Two local men who took up the challenge of fighting for their country in the War of 1812 were finally honoured last week during a special heritage event held in Harrow and Colchester

South.

Hosted by sisters, Susan Hutchins McCloskey and Ruth Hutchins Nicholson, the event honoured Isaac Ferriss (1795-1881) and William Hutchins (1784-1832). Both of these men

contributed to and survived the War of 1812 and their graves are marked in the local area. Ferriss' grave is located on the grounds of St. Andrew's Church in Harrow, the first stop last Saturday (continued on page 4)

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during the celebration. Hutchins grave is located at the Hutchins' Pioneer Cemetery in Colchester.

In an effort to honour both of their ancestors, McCloskey and Nicholson recently applied to the federal government's War of 1812 Veteran Graveside Project. The Graveside Recognition Program, which is operated by a non-profit group, was established to ensure that War of 1812 veterans get the recognition they deserve. The project will also provide a database of information on these 1812 veterans which at this time, does not exist.

Prior to this, the graves of veterans of the War of 1812 have never been recognized nationally. Veterans were also never issued the medals which were originally created for them but never distributed. On these graveside plaques, that medal is now shown which features a British lion protecting a Canadian beaver from an American eagle. It also features the Niagara area



Plaques identifying the graves of two local men as War of 1812 veterans were unveiled last weekend at special ceremonies in both Harrow and Colchester. The veterans honoured were Isaac Ferriss and William Hutchins.

in the background.

According to McCloskey and Nicholson, both Isaac Ferriss and William Hutchins served out of Fort Malden in Amherstburg during the War of 1812 as part of the Essex First Militia. They served under William Caldwell, Colonel Matthew Elliott and ultimately, Major General Isaac Brock. After being discharged from the military, Ferriss even joined the Caldwell Rangers; a group made up of former British soldiers, militia and Indian

allies who participated in many battles and expeditions.

Family members of Ferriss and Hutchins who attended the ceremonies to unveil these new graveside plaques said that by doing this, they hoped to bring awareness to the community about its War of 1812 veterans. They also hoped it would encourage more research on the topic by local groups and schools in order to help ensure that the War of 1812 and its veterans are remembered.