

# Tavistock Gazette.

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4 TAVISTOCK GAZETTE ♦ WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

## War of 1812: Veteran honoured

The year 2012 marked the bicentennial of the War of 1812, when the British colonies fought to retain independence from the United States.

The graves of veterans of the War of 1812 have never been recognized nationally. Bringing awareness of this time in our history is the goal of The Graveside Project, a non-profit group that has come together to ensure that the War of 1812 veterans get the recognition they deserve. This is not only in the defense of Canada, but also for their dedication in building the foundation of the Canada we live in today.

On Saturday, July 18, 2015, a plaque dedication ceremony was held at Vandecar Cemetery on the 11th Line of East Zorra (just south of the Braemar Sideroad) to honour one of these veterans, Isaac Osborn. He and his wife Susannah are both buried in Vandecar Cemetery.



Photo above left, Elizabeth Shumovich and Jim Groulx, President, Oxford Historical Society at the Dedication Ceremony .

At right, Tavistock Legion representatives Susan Pellow and Barb Matthies at the grave site.

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Their great great granddaughter, Elizabeth Shumovich of Whitby, was the applicant for the Federal Government Project and was in attendance July 18 with about 30 other relatives.

The ceremony was also attended by East Zorra-Tavistock CAO Jeff Carswell, Tavistock Councillor Shirley McCall-Hanlon, Oxford MP Dave MacKenzie,

Tavistock Legion Memorial Branch #518 Poppy Fund chairperson Susan Pellow, Legion Executive Committee Comrade Barb Matthies, and Tavistock & District Historical Society members Ed Pellow and Denise McLachlin.

Also in attendance was Fire Chief Scott Alexander whose father, Bill, has been caretaker of the cemetery for the past 25 years.

The biography of Mr.

Osborn on the project web site reads as follows:

"Isaac Osborn was born in the United States in 1784. He emigrated to Canada, married Susannah Houser circa 1810 and resided in the Township of Grimsby in Lincoln County. They had nine children -Jane (1813), Andrew (1817), Margaret (1819), John (1825), Elizabeth (1826), William (1828), Jacob (1830), Anne (1834),

and Catherine (1837). Isaac served as a Private in the 4th Lincoln Regiment, 2nd Flank Co. As a result of this service he was granted 100 acres (W 1/2 lot 31 concession 10) in Erin Township in the County of York in the Home District. He fulfilled his obligations of settlement and was given clear title in 1826.

In 1838, Isaac sold that land and moved to Oxford County where he purchased 100 acres (E 1/2 lot 22 concession 10) in East Zorra Township and continued to farm there until his death in 1857."

Four generations of Osborns farmed on the 11th line of East Zorra for a total of 147 years. The last Osborn to farm in East Zorra was Roy Osborn.

We are one of a very few nations that has not honoured its founders. This project will provide a data base of biographical information on thousands

of veterans of the War of 1812, a data base that presently does not exist, and one that will be a boon to future research by students of our history.

This legacy project will ensure that these veterans' stories will be available for school students, heritage committees, legions, and family members.



PHOTO / CONTINUED

Great great grandson Harland Willison places the British flag.