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# **CSMMI** *Journal*

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# List of Advertisers

*The C.S.M.M.I. thanks these  
Summer 2014 Journal Advertisers*

Advertiser . . . . .	Location
<i>Arctic Medals and Militaria</i> . . . . .	1949
<i>C.S.M.M.I. Annual Show</i> . . . . .	Inside Back Cover
<i>Eugene G. Ursual</i> . . . . .	Inside Front Cover
<i>Floyd Migory</i> . . . . .	1974
<i>Marway Militaria Auctions Inc.</i> . . . . .	1960
<i>Hamwic House</i> . . . . .	1974
<i>Jeffrey Hoare Auctions Inc.</i> . . . . .	Outside Back Cover
<i>Louis E. Grimshaw Military Antiques</i> . . . . .	1971
<i>Military Man</i> . . . . .	1962
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# Message from The Executive Committee

As I write this article, we are only days away from the Annual General Meeting and accompanying show and sale. I believe there are a few bourse tables still remaining to be spoken for. Give Tim Burt a call if you are interested in a couple.



As mentioned in the last issue of the CSMMI Medallion we are going to introduce a couple of new venues at this year's show and sale.

An "Antiques Road Show" type table will be set up in the hallway before you enter the bourse area. The public can bring their Militaria mysteries to us for identification, authenticity, rarity and any other information we can give them. We will also have a Society bourse table, where members can drop of an article they want us to sell for them.

Remember also that Wendy Hoare will be conducting her military auction on Friday night and a coin auction on Saturday after noon

We expect a big crowd at the "Fun Auction" breakfast on Saturday morning. Always a good time and some real bargains can be had!!!

The Annual General Meeting will take place immediately following the closing of the bourse area on Friday. Please plan to attend. Your Society needs your input and guidance on important matters at hand.

The celebration of our 50th year as a Society begins this year. Some time at the AGM will be given to over to soliciting and hearing input on how we might honor this very special event in the CSMMI's history. Perhaps you all could put a couple of ideas together and share them at the meeting.

Let's have a great event this year. Please plan to attend, or, drop by to renew old acquaintances. See you there!!



**THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY MEDALS AND INSIGNIA**

Balance sheet for the period 1st January 2013 - 31st December 2013

Opening balance 1st January 2013	
Bank of Montreal account	\$16,138.88
Petty cash	\$ 107.38
Total assets	\$ 16,246.26
Total income	\$ 18,992.43
Total expenditure	\$ 19,973.06
Closing balance 31st December 2013	
Bank of Montreal account	\$ 15,188.25
Petty cash	\$ 107.38
Total assets	\$ 15,295.61
Profit (Loss)	( \$ 1,050.63)

**THE CSMMI 2013 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
	\$	\$
Advertising	746.00	1,226.00
Annual convention	9,299.41	8,347.89
Bourse	3,509.20	3,805.00
Door receipts	1,208.43	985.00
Dues	7,393.82	4,454.64
Interest	1.98	1.90
Sales	63.00	102.00
Refunds	35.09	
Bank dividend	10.00	
Total	22,166.93	18,922.43
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Advertising	705.11	724.58
Bank fees	38.37	186.46
Annual Convention	8,814.67	10,098.12
Hall rental	4,266.54	4,438.62
Journal, printing & postage	6,165.32	2,705.96
Insurance & legal	1,219.32	1,219.32
Donations		100.00
Mailbox rental	261.71	
Annual meeting deposit	500.00	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,971.04</b>	<b>19,973.06</b>

# FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

Proposed Insignia Designs

*Fred Tripp*

Several years ago, this most interesting article came across my desk. It was written up in the Journal of the American Society of Military Insignia Collectors (ASMIC) in their APRIL – JUNE 1975 edition. With an eye to someday printing it in the CSMMI Journal, I contacted Charlie Edwards who put me in touch with Dave Kaufman from ASMIC. Mr. Kaufman was kind enough to give permission to republish the article detailing the history of the search for a suitable design of the unique shoulder patch for the 1st Special Service Force. With thanks to the American Society of Military Insignia Collectors we are pleased to reprint the original article for the enjoyment of all of our members.

*See images on the next four pages.*

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# PROPOSED INSIGNIA DESIGNS FOR THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE

The First Special Service Force was a unique highly specialised combat unit organized for World War II. It was composed of personnel from both the United States and the Canadian Army. It could be best described as an elite Ranger/Commando organization. The personnel received paratroop training, mountain climbing, ski troop, and ranger training. Its location, size, strength, etc were kept highly secret, and insignia was removed when the unit would transfer its location.

Although primarily trained for mountain warfare in Europe, the Japanese invasion of the Aleutian Islands necessitated in calling of the 1st Special Service Force to aid in driving the Japanese from the Aleutians. Completing their duty there the eventually went to Italy as part of the Fifth Army, and then from there into Southern France. The 1st Special Service Force has campaign credits for the Aleutians, Naples-Foggia, the Rhineland, Rome-Arno, and Southern France. In addition the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Regiments are credited with the Anzio campaign.



As a separate branch the Special Service Force were authorized to wear the crossed arrows which had formerly been assigned to the Indian Scouts. The insignia was made with plain arrows for officers and with similar arrows on a disc for the enlisted men. These were authorized 27 August 1942.

In addition to a branch insignia, the Special Service Force also requested a branch color, primarily as cap braid for enlisted personnel. It was noted that considerable red, white, and blue braid no longer used by the Citizens Military Training Corps (CMTC) was available, and would be quite suitable since it represented the national colors of both the United States and of Canada. A portion of the original letter of request for this braid is quoted as follows:

"September 3, 1942

**b. Cord, edge, braid, for garrison cap:**

The red, white, and blue cap braid would replace the assorted cap braids now worn by the enlisted men of the several branches represented in the force. No procurement problem is involved as it is understood informally that the Quartermaster General has available 10,000 yards braid which could be furnished immediately. The braid would be worn by all men in the force and would be worn overseas when the unit moves.

The red, white, and blue cap braid is not now worn by any unit of the armed forces. A red, white, and blue hat cord was worn by the former CMTC candidates."

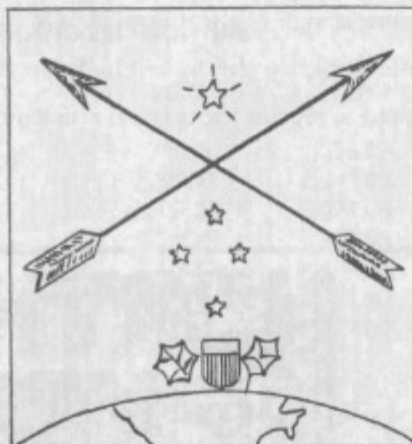
In addition to the branch insignia and a branch color, a shoulder sleeve insignia also was needed. Since the unit was part Canadian it was necessary that the word "CANADA" be worn as all Canadian troops were required to wear a shoulder tab bearing the word "CANADA".

WORLD WAR II

The Heraldic Section of the Office of the Quartermaster did an exhaustive study on possible designs which would be suitable for such an organization with its mixed personnel (U.S. and Canada), and its unusual mission. Design ideas considered the pioneer background of both countries their national emblems, (the maple leaf and the eagle), stars, stripes, arrows, mutual friendship and cooperation, etc. Finally after many suggestions the design as we know it ("USA CANADA" in white on a red Indian spearhead) was approved 14 September 1942.

Presented here are sketches made in an effort to reach the design finally adopted. These represent artist sketches only, they are not insignia and were never made as such. These are only steps along the way to reach a final design. They show the serious task in trying to come up with an insignia suitable for a unit.

**TRIAL DESIGNS:**



Crossed golden arrows denoting Special Service.  
Blue earth - origin North America.  
Shield and Maple Leafs.  
Polaris and Southern Cross - geographical range of service.  
Golden arrows and National Colors - red, white and blue.



Similar idea but simplified Special Forces arrows and star formations in blue on a white oval bordered red.

APRIL-JUNE 1975

Various national emblem combinations of the U.S. eagle (and/or star) and the Maple leaf of Canada.



Red eagle, blue leaf on white disc. Has eagle dropped the maple leaf?



Similar design but on a white shield rather than a disc.



U.S. star (red) blended with Maple leaf (blue) on a white disc.



Same combination star and maple leaf being swallowed (gobbled up?) by US eagle (white). Hardly suitable!



In this case, a separate red star and blue leaf being swallowed. One lump or two?



Another variation - A red maple leaf, a white eagle, all on a blue disc.

APRIL-JUNE 1975

Another trial - A disc divided horizontally with red and white stripes at top and a white maple leaf on a blue background below.



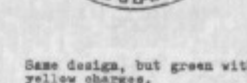
The red, white and blue U.S. shield on a green maple leaf with white Polaris and Southern Cross constellations.



A red battle-axe on a disc divided vertically red (left), white and blue.



A simplified variation with the battle-axe in white on a red disc "USA" and "CANADA" are in white.



Same design, but green with yellow charges.



Similar, but Indian tomahawk replaces battle-axe.



Same design but with clasped hands added.





Yellow battle axe on green maple leaf.

A new idea - a pioneer's coonskin cap (green) with USA and CANADA in yellow.



A red coonskin cap.

A red coonskin cap, plus "USA" and "CANADA" in white.



White "USA" and "CANADA" on a saxon coonskin cap with crossed red and blue battle axes.

Color variation with red battle axes on blue coonskin cap. White "USA" and "CANADA".



Color variation with blue battle axes on red coonskin cap. White "USA" and "CANADA".



Different type coonskin cap (red) with blue battle axes. "USA" and "CANADA" in white.



Blue semi-disc with red battle axes outlined white. "USA CANADA" in white.



Similar design, but with a red eagle within a white maple leaf.

NOTE: This design carried the following notation:

"This is the choice - but substitute a spread (National) eagle for the eagle's head. It would be better to make the background a complete circle - enlarging maple leaf & eagle."



Design as suggested above, eagle in red, maple leaf in white, all on a blue disc.

Closer to the final design: A red Indian spearhead with "USA" and "CANADA" in white.



APRIL-JUNE 1975



The drawing of the design as finally selected.



Almost the final design, only a variation in the shape of the spearhead.



The design as finally approved

When finally approved, the official description of the shoulder sleeve insignia reads as follows:

"The shoulder sleeve insignia consists of an Indian spear head in red on which appears the words USA-CANADA in white. The design has been prepared by the Heraldic Section, Office, Quartermaster General, who has advised that the spear head (or arrow head) is not now authorized any organization. The use of this insignia bearing the words USA-CANADA was agreed to by Canadian officials as a suitable replacement for the shoulder sleeve insignia bearing the word "Canada" normally worn by Canadian Forces.

The insignia would be worn by all men in the force; a total of approximately 7,500 will be required and can be had in approximately two weeks time. The insignia would not be worn overseas."

September 3, 1942

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From Niagara – QEW to North Shore, Lakeshore Rd., North on Brandt, right on James (which becomes New Street) then left on Teen Tour Way.

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## Tracing your War of 1812 Ancestors

The final report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada (1817)  
& The Board of Claims for War of 1812 Losses, 1823-1825

By Ken Cox (#1738)

The Ontario Archives has posted on their website some interesting information about the history of the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada. Examples are provided of the broad sheet outlining the objectives of the Society, information on Rev. John Strachan and a digital image of the final report of the Society prepared in 1817. Also available is a link to an article written about the Upper Canada Preserved Medal. Although the article written by Carl Benn, Chair the Department of History, Ryerson University, outlines the early development of the Society and is well worth reading, it is his description of the medal which was struck which makes the article particularly interesting. The final report of the Society written in 1817, however, is what might be of benefit to family historians seeking War of 1812 ancestors. It provides for all of us concrete examples of the suffering the hostilities caused the early settlers of Upper Canada.

The Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada was formed in the early years of the war of 1812 as a means 'to afford aid and relief to such individuals of the Militia in all parts of the Province, as shall appear to experience particular distress in consequence of the Death or Absence of their Friends and Relations employed in the Militia Services in Defence of the Province' and 'To afford like aid and relief to such Militia Men as have been or shall be Disabled from Labour, by Wounds or otherwise, in course of the Service aforesaid.' A subscription was called for and eventually the Society was able to acquire a substantial sum of money from benefactors in Montreal, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Jamaica, England and of course Upper Canada. Individuals could join the Society for a small annual fee with great effort being made to encourage the leading citizens, political leaders, Colonial administrators and senior army officers both in Canada and England to donate significant sums. In the early years of the war clothing and other necessities were

*Continued on Page 1952*

provided for the militia by the citizens of York, Upper Canada. Eventually the Society provided cash compensation to those citizens who had suffered more substantial loss during the course of the war. Thus, it was during and following the hostilities that the Society under the leadership of York's leading citizens chaired by the Reverend John Strachan did some of its' substantial work. Ultimately the monies raised were spent on providing relief for individuals or their families affected by loss during the war; the design and production of a medal entitled 'Upper Canada Preserved' which was to be issued to deserving individuals and the construction of what was to become the Toronto General Hospital for the relief of veterans of the war.



*The original medal was designed by the chief engraver for the Royal Mint, Thomas Wyon, Jr. The medals were to be issued to Officers, non-commissioned officers and privates who had served during the War. Due to political indecision the medals were never issued and were ultimately destroyed. The defaced medals were sold to two Toronto watchmakers, William Stennett and Charles Sewell with the proceeds going to support the Toronto General Hospital.*

*(image by permission of Jeffery Hoare Auctions Ltd.)*

The story of the medal is extremely interesting and can be best understood by reading Dr. Benn's article posted on the Ontario Archives website and also available online at [http://www.napoleon-series.org/military/Warof1812/2007/Issue6/c\\_benn.html](http://www.napoleon-series.org/military/Warof1812/2007/Issue6/c_benn.html). The story of the Toronto General Hospital has been recorded in a number of textual references and again is an interesting aside to the work of the Society. However, for family historians seeking War of 1812 ancestors it is the Report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada, 1817, Printed by William Gray, Montreal, Lower Canada, 1817, held at the Ontario Archives and the Toronto Reference and North York Libraries, that may prove most beneficial.

The text is a summary of the monies distributed to individuals in Upper Canada who had suffered losses either in property or family as a result of the hostilities. In many cases names are listed, the district wherein they resided is given, the cause of relief is provided as is the amount of money granted.

In some cases an interesting description is provided of the suffering of the individual.

“Resolved, That fifty dollars be given to Garrett Slingerland, who lived near the Town of Niagara, was last summer taken prisoner by the enemy, and carried across the river, where he remained some weeks before he could make his escape, during which time his house and barn were burnt, and every thing he had destroyed by the enemy. Slingerland served his Majesty in the rebellion, and is now old and infirm, has a large family to support, without any means” pg102,

“Resolved that one hundred dollars be given to Mrs. Elizabeth McLelan, widow of the late Captain Martin McLelan, of the 1st Regiment Lincoln Militia, who was killed on the 27th May last, in opposing the enemy, when they landed near Fort George, his house and barn burnt, and the fences of his farm taken away by the enemy. Mrs. McLelan has a family of small children without any income to support them.” Pg. 103

Later the text lists the names of the recipients on one page and provides a description of the reason for a grant on the facing page. As is the case with Mahlan Burwell, London district on page 236 and on the facing page, 237:

“This gentleman, a Member of the House of Assembly, Lieutenant Colonel of Militia, was active against the enemy on all occasions, and became odious to them at night; they made a sudden incursion on the Talbot settlement, found him in his bed ill of the ague, and dragged him without hat or coat away to Detroit a prisoner, and from thence to Kentucky, where he remained many weeks. His house having been burnt, and all his property destroyed, and his family driven off. The Society, on Col. Burwell's return, requested his acceptance as a mark of their regard.” Pg 237,

The Society also provided relief for individuals who were seeking transportation home or to hospital for treatment. The case of Daniel Baxter of England states: “This man was sent up to Amherstburgh from Quebec as a ship carpenter, and after the defeat of General Proctor at Moravian Town, he was overtaken

*Continued on Page 1954*



in the retreat and severely wounded, and left for dead under a bridge; he recovered himself after the departure of the enemy, and was able to get to some habitation with great difficulty. This case being made known to the Directors of the Loyal and Patriotic Society, they ordered to carry him to Quebec." Pg.233,

The list of recipients provided in the text is not indexed and means that someone searching for their ancestors will have to peruse the whole document in the hopes of identifying a possible family connection. This should not prove to be an onerous task because the single volume is not particularly large or difficult to scan. As an aside the report is interesting in providing personal descriptions of the sufferings of some of the individuals caught up in the conflict. Barns and houses being burnt, livestock carried off, families being driven from their homes and individuals being killed or wounded and thus removing the sole means of support of a family provide for some interesting reading.

"April, 1816, To Jacob Miller, Home District, 38 pounds – 'This man's distress exceeds almost any thing that has come before the Society. His eldest son volunteered in the flank company; was at the battle of Queenston, and on the lines during the whole campaign of 1812. In December he caught the measles, and being exposed to cold, was ill for more than twelve months. His second son was likewise on duty, and behaved well at the battle of York, but returned sick, and after lingering two month died. His third son was in the militia, and caught cold escorting prisoners to Kingston, which terminated in a fever, which left him full of running sores, which still continue open and render him totally incapable of labour, or even of taking care of his person. His fourth son was also upon duty with the militia, and likewise himself, by all which his farm was neglected, his wife and younger children exposed to much hardship; from a competence he is reduced to necessity. This case was so peculiarly distressing, that the society ordered him for present relief, not meaning that their donation should be limited to this sum." pg.257.

The text contains many references to individuals aided by the Society. In some cases a description is provided of their sufferings, in other cases lists of names are included in pull-out chart form with a simple statement of 'house or barn' burnt.

Because it is often difficult to ascertain if an ancestor served during the war because official documents are lacking, the Report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada might provide for the lucky researcher an opportunity to place an ancestor in context. If nothing else, it gives all of us an opportunity to discover just how punishing the war was for the ordinary citizens of Upper Canada. In any case, it is just one more source of information that we should not overlook in seeking our War of 1812 ancestors. The text can be accessed not only at the Ontario Archives but also the Toronto Reference and North York Libraries.

### **The Board of Claims for War of 1812 Losses, 1823-1825**

For Ontario Genealogical Society members an excellent review of the work of the Loyal and Patriotic Society is available on the website. Found in Volume 26, No. 4, 1987 of Families is an article written by Doris Bourrie which not only provides a history of the Society but some interesting follow-up information that would be of benefit to anyone researching War of 1812 ancestors. Ms. Bourrie mentions that family historians can also access the War of 1812 loss claims presented to the Royal Commission of 1823-1825 at Library and Archives Canada. These claims for war damage submitted to the commission can be found in Finance Records – R.G.19 E, 5(a) – (r200-112-9-E). Fortunately, microfilm copies are also available at the Ontario Archives and can be accessed by consulting binder D-1 and referring to finding aid 19-2 which contains an index to the registers of claims.

The 'Board of Claims for War of 1812 Losses-1823-1825 represents the work of local military boards which ruled on claims submitted by civilians for losses during the war. Originally, initiated in 1815 by Lt. Governor Gore and submitting a report in 1816, the works of the local committees were acknowledged but no claims were paid. Under a Provincial statute a new board was appointed in 1823 with the purpose of approving submissions by citizens. The Imperial Government agreed to pay 25% of the approved claims for damage done by the enemy, native warriors, his Majesty's soldiers or damage resulting from transporting supplies and troops during the hostilities. The commission stated that it would not acknowledge claims which fell into one of eight categories:

- a) loss of goods and vessels in transit;

*Continued on Page 1956*

- b) property lost within the territory of the United States;
- c) claims for losses occasioned by burglaries and other felonies;
- d) claims for losses of army bills specie and watches;
- e) unpaid amounts by the army commissariat or other departments; f) loss of rents of buildings;
- g) losses of crops left ungathered. The owner being absent in the military;
- h) claims by non-commissioned officers and others in his Majesty's regular forces for loss of property while in garrisons and claims for loss of baggage and arrears of pay and allowances of officers of the Provincial militia.

Textual reference material concerning submissions for losses presented to the Board of Claims can be found at both the Toronto Reference Library and the North York Public Library's genealogy department. Government documents concerning the work of the 1823 commission and including information about the 'mixed commission established under the convention between Great Britain and the United States of America of the 8th February, 1853' to address losses sustained during the War, are available at our own reference libraries. Simply enter in the library's search engine the words, "claims for losses, War of 1812" and a list of early documents and the following texts will appear.

Lauber, W.R., Index of the civilian loss claims from the War of 1812, Chatham, Ont.,: Kent County Branch, O.G.S., 1997,

Lauber, W.R., An Index of the land claims certificates of Upper Canada militiamen who served in the War of 1812, Ontario Genealogical Society, 1995,

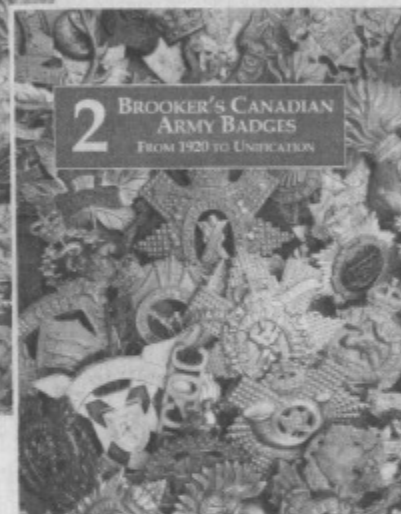
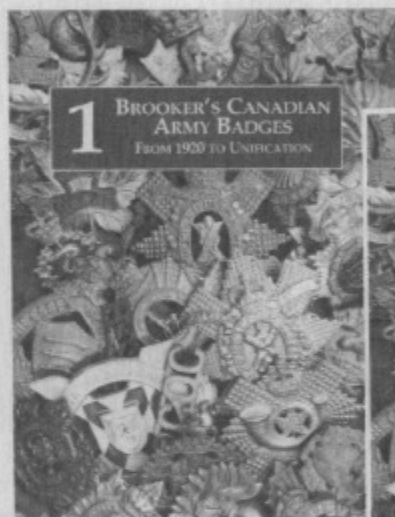
-----, Claims for damages during the War of 1812 from Ancaster Township, Hamilton Ontario: Hamilton Branch, O.G.S., 2000

However, it's the information found at Library and Archives Canada and

*Continued on Page 1962*

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# HALT! WHAT GOES THERE?

*The following items have been identified from the Summer 2013 and Winter 2013 Journals.*

## ITEM 136

(Our apologies for the error in the Winter 2013 Journal) Mike McMahon and Charlie Edwards have identified this badge as belonging to the Rochester Volunteer Training Corps. The "R.V.T.C." and the coat of arms are the identifying factors. Volunteer Units were formed all over Great Britain at the start of World War One and were officially recognized on November 19, 1914. After several reorganizations, all County Volunteer Regiments were made Volunteer Battalions of Line Regiments in July 1918.



## ITEM 139

This piece has been identified as Italian Fascist collar badge. After the fall of southern Italy to the Allies, the remnants of Benito Mussolini's Fascist forces came under the control of the German Forces in the North. This puppet state became known as the Italian Social Republic. The military forces that remained loyal to Mussolini were assigned new badges. This particular badge was worn as a collar badge (gold for officers and white metal ORs). It was used by the Italian Social Republic Air Force and Navy. The period of authorization of its use was roughly from September 1943 to April 25, 1945. Thanks to Charlie Edwards and Fred Tripp.



## ITEM 141

These cloth flashes were worn by Italian troops working with the Allied Forces in Italy, after 1943. They were worn on both sleeves. They also came in a larger version and had a black device embroidered on the white central band. These were used largely by several Italian "Combat Groups" that were organized in the fall of 1944. The order of the stripes from left to right is green, white, red. The example as originally shown is backward.

Thanks to Charlie Edwards.



## ITEM 142

This is an example of a British lapel badge that was worn to show that the wearer had served in the Special Constabulary (Territorial). It is from the post World War 2 period. Thanks to Charlie Edwards.



*The following items have been submitted for identification*

## ITEM 143

This patch, 3.5 inches x 2.75 inches, is made of very soft melton material. It is shield-shaped with a yellow crown and crossed machine guns on a blue centre. The whole is surrounded by a maroon border.



## ITEM 144

This badge (it may be a helmet plate or a cross belt plate) has three short lugs on the back. One is behind the crown and the others are on each side. The monogram of an entwined "ER VII" is enclosed by a wreath that is half laurel and half oak. The whole is surmounted by a king's crown.



## ITEM 145

This pebbled brass bar has the letters "BCWSC" surrounded by a plain frame.

## ITEM 146

This silver medal is suspended by a ring from vertically striped red and white ribbon. The centre of the medal is entirely enameled in different colours. The cross of St. Andrew is in white with four symbols on coloured enamels, each within the arms of the cross. These are red with a rose, green with a shamrock, blue with a beaver, and yellow with a thistle. The centre is enclosed by a light blue enameled oval with the words "CORPORATION. HONNEUR. MONTREAL. VALOUR." The whole is surrounded by a wreath of Laurel.









the Ontario Archives in record group 19E, Finance Records, (R200-112-9-E) which hold some really interesting material. Start your search of this resource by first consulting microfilm reel T-1144-register of receipts and be sure to read the introduction which explains the nature of the records. Generally, the records will provide you with claims submitted for losses, affidavits usually signed by a Justice of the Peace confirming losses and certificates of compensation issued by the commission. The early records are found on microfilm T-1122; 'the proceedings of the Military Board of Claims covering 1813-1816 for Niagara, Fort Wellington, London District, Kingston, Western District and York.' These early claims list in detail the losses sustained by our ancestors because they found themselves living in a war zone.

If you're fortunate enough to discover an ancestors name on a claim you will come to realize the devastation the war brought to the region. The case of John Sanders of Niagara is a good example. He claims losses for a house with porch, two brass clocks, a small bookcase, one cupboard, a stable and root house, 2000 rails enclosing 40 acres of land amongst other items. His claim is confirmed by Peter Ball esq., Justice of the Peace, stating "the above mentioned property was destroyed by the British Troops and the Enemy as specified".

Other claims list things like doors, nails, hinges, shingles from the roof, window shutters, livestock, stockings, clothing etc. If nothing else these claims make us aware of the devastation of war in Upper Canada. Family historians will come to realize after reading both the report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society and the War Losses, Claims Commission material that the war was much more than two opposing armies fighting over territory. It inevitably involved the whole region of British North America and certainly the American side of the Niagara River in wanton destruction.

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# IMAGES OF HISTORY

## The Story of a Military Re-enactor

*(From information provided by Ed James # 923)*



Ed James, a long time member of the CSMMI from Manitoba, has developed a program aimed at making Canadians aware of their military history by developing a sense of personal contact and making it come alive.

He uses a series of one- person monologue plays that have been purposely written to be performed in school classrooms and small halls, involving period "costumes", artifacts and appropriate preplanned backgrounds.



Having developed a series of characters, Ed uses his materials to portray an Air Gunner with the R.C.A.F., a captain on a corvette as it sails on convoy duty, a Great War soldier in the trenches, or a dispatch rider and photographer with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals as he moves through training in Canada and England on through the D-Day landings and subsequent service in the liberation of Holland.



He also has programs that highlight the music of World War II, the importance of mail from home, the Holocaust, and a series of vignettes showing how war has its victims and participants even after the fighting has stopped.

The programs can be adapted for presentations to audiences at all age levels, from younger school children to people who actually took part in the conflicts.





troops and the protection of the North American lakes. Captain John Schank (1740-1823), for many of the early years, was in command of the Provincial Marine on the upper lakes. He served with distinction throughout the American Revolution and the beginning of the War of 1812 before being replaced when the British realized that they would need a much bigger fleet to defend the border and much more able commanders with sea experience. Command of the Provincial Marine eventually fell on June 2, 1813 to Captain Richard O'Connor and the service assumed the role of transport under the control of the Department of the Quartermaster-General. In 1813, the British started a ship building campaign on the lakes and issued orders for seamen and marines to be sent from British ships serving with the Atlantic Squadron stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia. Ship building commenced at Kingston, Amherstburg, Penetanguishene and on Lake Champlain at Ile-aux-Noix in Lower Canada. The Americans at Sacket's Harbour on Lake Ontario and Put-In-Bay on Lake Erie competed for control of the lakes by constructing their own fleets. Near the end of the war, the shipyards at Kingston, Upper Canada, had launched a vessel that equalled in size the ships which had fought with Admiral Nelson at the famous naval battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Launched on September 10, 1814, the first rate ship-of-the-line HMS St. Lawrence was the largest vessel to serve with the fleet on Lake Ontario. She carried 112 guns and a crew of 1000 men and was over sixty metres in length. Her armament was more than that carried by Nelson's ship HMS Victory at Trafalgar. The Americans raced to build a ship as big but cancelled the project when peace was declared. Interestingly, the building of naval vessels on the Great Lakes becomes one of the key elements of the Treaty of Ghent signed in December of 1814. Both sides, according to the treaty, were to limit the number of naval vessels that could be built and manned for service on any of the Great Lakes.

Searching for Naval ancestors who served in British North America during the War of 1812 can be somewhat of a challenge. Although, Library and Archives Canada hold microfilm copies of British Admiralty records these are not indexed. What this means, for those of us who suspect an ancestor served aboard ship, is the start of some detective work. Start by knowing your history. Two books available at most reference libraries will provide you with knowledge of the ships and naval battles fought during the war.

- Irving, I. H., *Officers of the British Forces in Canada during the War of 1812-15*, Welland Tribune Print/Canadian Military Institute, 1908,
- Malcomson, R., *Warships of the Great Lakes, 1754-1834*, Knickerbocker Press, New Jersey, 2004.

Although there are a wide range of books available, I mention these two because they list the names of the ships, history of engagements and in the case of Irving's book the names of the officers who served with both the Provincial Marine and the Royal Naval squadrons on Lake Champlain and the Great Lakes. The Irving book also provides some biographical information which might help with your research. Both list and provide valuable details about the ships that served either with the Provincial Marine or Royal Navy on the Great Lakes.

Next, access the information at Library and Archives Canada. The records fall into three categories: Provincial Marine, Royal Navy and Admiralty Lake Service.

- Manuscript Group 12-ADM 1 – microfilm C-12856, - hold the returns of the Provincial Armed Vessels and Marine Force on Lakes Erie and Ontario in 1812,
- M.G. 12-ADM 37 – contain ships' musters, series II, 1757-1818, for vessels on Lakes Champlain, Ontario, Erie and Huron and at Halifax N.S.,
- M.G. 12-ADM 38 – (R11630-0-0-E) – hold ships muster books, predominantly 1813-34,
- M.G. 12-ADM 51 – amongst other records, contain the ships logs of service on Lake Champlain and the Great Lakes 1814-1818,
- Record Group 8, I, C series – are the records of the Royal Navy and Provincial Marine. A description of the Provincial Marine, Royal Navy and Admiralty Lake Service records can be found in the inventory to RG 8 that prefaces Finding Aid 1800.

*Continued on Page 1968*

'Ships Muster Books contain the names of all persons forming the complement of the ship. They provide name, rank, place of birth, former ship, date of first entry, charges and deductions, and the number of days onboard. The archives holds the muster books for naval yards and depots at Ile-aux-Noir, Holland Landing, Penetanguishene, Lake Erie, lake Champlain, Quebec, Montreal, Niagara-on-the-lake and Kingston, 1813-34. Volumes 2294-2303 hold the muster rolls for various companies of the Royal Marine Artillery. The muster rolls also contain information on women and children. What is really significant about Ships Muster Books is they also record if your ancestor volunteered or was 'presst' into service. You won't be surprised to find that most were 'impressed', which simply means they went unwillingly. Recorded as well on the muster is the location where they joined or were 'presst'. Interestingly, researchers soon discover that the men who volunteered for naval service were usually those who had a necessary skilled trade. These men received better pay and in some cases could bring their wife with them while onboard. Knowing where a seaman 'joined' is a boon to family historians as it locates a person in place and time. Another column records their discharge status or transfer record. To find the letter 'R' recorded in the discharge column indicates that your ancestor was a 'runner' or deserted the ship. A 'D' or 'D.D.' could mean they were discharged or discharged dead.

Although Library and Archives Canada hold microfilmed copies of the Ships' Muster Books that served in British North America, you will eventually have to access the records at The National Archives in England if you want more details about your Naval Ancestors.

Britain's Royal Navy has maintained records of ordinary seamen in ships' musters, logs and other records since the 18th century. The early records are not indexed by name and since by 1799 the Royal Navy had over 800 ships with approximately 125,000 men in service, it would seem impossible to search every ships' muster. However, there are other ways of narrowing the search. Beginning in 1786 the navy encouraged its' sailors to make a will. Draft wills were provided to ships' clerks and commanding officers were expected to witness them and store them for safe keeping. These wills generally provide the name of the ship the seaman was serving upon and his service number. The wills are indexed at the National Archives and searchable on line at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/willdeathduties.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/willdeathduties.asp). Available on the same

website are the Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills. These can prove valuable because if a man died at sea it was the responsibility of this court to prove his will. The P.C. of C. covers the whole of the 18th century and researchers can purchase a copy of a will on line.

The Royal Navy also provided for seamen by deducting from pay a small amount for pension. It was the duty of the Navy Pay Office to certify if a sailor was entitled to a pension. This involved the Pay Office producing a certificate of service listing the ships the man served aboard and the dates of service. These service records, some back to 1802, are indexed by name and can be searched by entering your ancestor's name in the search box at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/search.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/search.asp). If your ancestor was seriously wounded or received a pension you should also check the Royal Greenwich Hospital, Chatham Chest and Royal Bounty records. These government services provided a pension for seamen severely injured; the dependents of seamen killed in action or a one-time payment to the families of men killed in action. The National Archives has an excellent research guide, Royal Navy: Ratings' Pension Records, which describes these resources and how to access them.

Your search for navy ancestors need not stop with Library and Archives Canada or the National Archives in England. Our own Canadian War Museum Library holds some interesting and valuable texts which can help with your research. While searching for my own naval ancestors, I discovered that the war museum library held a copy of an 1805 naval journal wherein my ancestor had written an article about his service as a midshipman with Admiral Saunders at the fall of Quebec in 1759. You can access the military history research centre catalogue at [www.warmuseum.ca/military-history-research-centre](http://www.warmuseum.ca/military-history-research-centre).

In the early nineteenth century, England established what military researchers refer to as the Army and Navy Lists. The lists were established to confirm the seniority of navy and army officers when it came to promotion. They provide the name of the officer, his date of enlistment and history of promotion. You can access the Army Lists at the Toronto Reference Library in the Baldwin Room. They have a set dating back to the late eighteenth century which may hold information about an officer ancestor who remained in the army following the war. A set of the Navy Lists is available at the Canadian War Museum but only from 1831 onwards as well as the Toronto Reference Library. The Navy Lists at the

*Continued on Page 1970*



TRF date from 1815 with a gap to 1820.

Another resource that all family historians seeking a seaman ancestor should not overlook is the records of the Naval General Service Medal. The medal was initiated in 1847 and covered the period from 1793 to 1840. Recipients were expected to apply for their copy and it was not issued to deceased seamen unless they died following their application. Just over 20,000 were issued so the chance of finding your ancestor on the medal rolls is quite slim. Of the 231 bars/clasps issued for the medal, only ten apply to the War of 1812. The most famous of the clasps being the 'Shannon/Chesapeake' action and the 'Potomac, 17 Aug., 1814' bar issued for the capture and burning of Washington. You can access the transcribed rolls at most reference libraries.

Douglas-Morris, K.J., *The Naval General Service Medal Roll, 1793-1840*, London, Privately Printed, 1982,

Viger, D.,D., *The Three Great Retrospective Medals, 1793-1840 Awarded to Artillerymen*, Salisbury, Vigers & Macfarlane, 1986.

You can also check the transcribed rolls on-line at: [www.dnw.co.uk/medals/resources/medalrolls/navalgeneralservice](http://www.dnw.co.uk/medals/resources/medalrolls/navalgeneralservice).

One final suggestion when seeking naval ancestors is to read some of the first-hand accounts available at Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian War Museum Library or our own Reference Library. Two early resources worth investigating can both be found at LAC and the Toronto Reference Library.

Cooper, James Fenimore, *Ned Meyers, or A Life before the Mast*, Glasgow; Dublin; Blackie & Son Limited, 1899,

(LAC)M.G. 24-F18 (R6351-0-6-E), the diary of David Wingfield, "Four Years on the Lakes of Canada in 1813, 1814, 1815 and 1816 by a Naval Officer under the Command of the Late Sir James Yeo, Commodore and Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels of War Employed on the Lakes"

The Cooper book, written in consultation with Ned Meyers, accounts the attack on York and action off Stoney Creek with the American fleet.

Ned Meyers was also present when the Hamilton and Scourge sank during a violent storm on Lake Ontario. Interestingly, he recounts how the American fleet fired 'grape shot' into the forests lining the Scarborough Bluffs in the hope of discouraging the natives and Upper Canada Militia from reporting the fleets' presence to Fort York on the morning of April 27th, 1813. I once had a former student come to the school with three grape-shot rounds he and his dad had dug up in their backyard while gardening. His house backed onto the Bluffs and he remembered my reading of part of the Ned Meyer story and wanted to give the items to me.

Discovering your War of 1812 naval ancestor can be a challenging search but once you get started you will soon discover many interesting facts about the life your ancestor lived aboard one of His Majesty's Ships. You'll be able to understand why dark rum is referred to as 'Nelson's Blood' and what it means when someone calls you 'a son of a gun'. Good luck with your naval family history research.



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C.S.M.M.I. #422

# Classified Ads

See page 1975 for a handy order form to place your own Classified Ad a great many like minded people read these ads!

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Please note ( - ) Tells the number of times this ad still has to run.

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**WANTED** Trying to locate the following medals to #132403, William Henry Perks, 73rd Batt CEF. BWM, Vict, Memorial Cross and plaque. Contact T J Popp by phone at 306-937-3531 or by email at scully01@sasktel.net (0)

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**WANTED TO BUY** Allan Kerr wants WORLD WAR II CANADIAN WOMEN'S UNIFORMS and ACCESSORIES. He will pay a minimum of \$300.00 for complete Navy, Air Force and Nurse uniforms. Contact Allan at 10769 - 99th St., Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 4H6. Telephone (780)-424-5281 Fax: (800)-894-7598 E-mail: milarm@compusmart.ab.ca

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**WANTED TO BUY** Any item pertaining to the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department - 1834 to present (badges, patches, photos, books, etc.). Will also purchase existing police related collections, corrections departments, forestry, VIA Rail. Call Joe at (905)-431-6644 or Email jferry0561@rogers.com (1)

**ATTENTION CURRENT AD HOLDERS:** Please note the numbers in brackets at the end of your ad. If it is (1) or (0), please take steps to renew your ad. See page 1935 for information. **If it is (0) now, it will not be in the next Journal and you will be missed by the people or even person who might be interested in your ad!**

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Inserts should be of light weight paper and must be provided ready-folded for insertion in the Journal mailings. The base rate is \$ 60.00 per mailing but this may be subject to an increase should additional pages result in an increase in the costs of mailing the Journal.

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Payment must accompany the advertisement. The placing of classified ads is restricted to C.S.M.M.I. members. Please use form provided in Journal. Advertising space will be provided, as a service, to members who are searching for items to buy, sell or trade. The rate for each block of 20 words is \$2.00 / block of 20 words or any part thereof. Name, address, telephone number, etc.. are NOT COUNTED as part of the 20 words.

Photographs for classified ads will be printed at a cost of \$ 10.00 each (black and white). A SASE should be included if the return of the pictures is desired.

Anyone interested in placing an advertisement should contact Fred Tripp by E-mail at frathy@vaxxine.com, by telephone at (905)-934-3442 or by regular mail: C.S.M.M.I., P.O. Box 28034, 600 Ontario St., St. Catharines, Ontario Canada L2N 7P8



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