

# Norfolk Haldimand and the War of 1812, including the Six Nations

*The War of 1812* was a watershed event in North American history, one which had significant impact on the character of the Canadian nation.



Surrender of Detroit. Many men from Norfolk and Haldimand were present.

Many people are familiar with the broad outlines of the war, which has been covered extensively in books and on television. Isaac Brock, Laura Secord, the Battle of Stoney Creek and the Battle of Lundy's Lane are relatively well known.

Less well known are the details of the War of 1812 in Norfolk and Haldimand, where many dramatic events took place. Among those with local connections:

*Brock's Dash to Detroit* - Isaac Brock sails from Dover to Amherstburg then defeats the Americans in the Battle of Detroit, with the help and encouragement of Robert Nichol, MLA for Norfolk.

*The Six Nations of the Grand River* - including John Norton and John Brant, played a crucial role in the war,

*Norfolk Militia's Terrific Trek* - Assigned to round up cattle to keep them from falling into American hands, a detachment of Norfolk militia skirmish with invading U.S. forces and take several prisoners.

*The Battle of Nanticoke Creek* - Norfolk Militia ousts American marauders from a cabin in Walpole Township. Several are captured and sent to trial as traitors.

*The Bloody Assize* - Some of the men captured at Nanticoke Creek, and others from the Norfolk area, are tried and executed at Burlington Heights.

*The Murder of Captain William Francis* - In retaliation for his testimony at the Bloody Assize, Captain William Francis is murdered by American sympathizers at his *home near Selkirk*.

*Campbell's Raid and McArthur's Raid* - Americans invade Norfolk in the spring of 1814, burning Dover and surrounding villages. In retaliation, British troops later burn Washington D.C. A few months later, another raid lays waste to Waterford and other villages.

There are many more stories — the military career of Robert Nichol, MLA for Norfolk; how Joseph Willcocks, MLA for part of Haldimand, became a traitor; the role of women in the war; the adventures of John Norton of the Six Nations.

Appearing in authentic period clothing, Bob Blakeley and Cheryl MacDonald provide an entertaining and informative presentation based on their popular book, *Norfolk, Haldimand and the War of 1812, including the Six Nations*. Writers, historians and historical re-enactors, Bob and Cheryl have produced nearly 40 books between them. Both have teaching experience at the community college level and have spoken to historical groups around the province.



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