

Veterans of War of 1812 honoured

Annual Remembrance Day services and ceremonies focus on those who served in the First and Second World War, and sometimes the Korean War.

But last weekend in a Richmond Hill cemetery, five veterans of the War of 1812 were honoured and remembered.

A special event was held in the cemetery of Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, on Yonge Street just north of Major Mackenzie Drive, bringing together local, provincial and federal politicians unveiling five plaques to mark the graves of men who served with the 1st Regiment York Militia during the War of 1812.

They are familiar names to those who know local history: John Arnold, David Bridgeford, John Langstaff, James Marsh and James Miles.

The Government of Canada funded the memorial project through the Canadian Heritage 1812 Commemoration Fund, helping to ensure that War of 1812 veterans are awarded the recognition they deserve, not only in the defence of Canada, but also for building the foundation of the Canada we know today.

Men and women attending Sunday wore period clothing and military dress and there was an honour guard firing muskets in a military salute.

More information on these five and other 1812 veterans can be found at www.1812veterans.ca, a website dedicated to providing a searchable data base of the biographies of War of 1812 veterans for students, researchers and descendants.

VETERANS HONOURED

John Arnold (1769-1855) Captain, Colonel (Commanding Officer)

David Bridgeford (1791-1868) Private, Sergeant, Captain, Colonel

John Langstaff (1774-1865) Sergeant

James Marsh (1776-1849) Private, Sergeant, Captain

James Miles (1776-1840) Lieutenant, Captain

Dale Adamson (below) of an historical reenactors group reads the biography of one of the soldiers, while Rev. Duncan J. Jeffrey of Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church (right) unveils a plaque for James Miles, with MP Costas Menegakis standing behind him. Muskets roar in salute for the 1812 vets.



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