

The four Grimsby women pictured herein ask that you please support this fundraiser .

They are : Catharine Bingle Gonnens UE, Rhonda Donn, Alfreda Jeffries UE, and bride Mrs. Dr. Jacob Pikor. The home behind is where their ancestral grandmother, Maria Jane Nelles , hosted a Victory Ball on June 4, 1818 together with her husband, Col. Robert Nelles UEL.

It must have been quite a party because t nine months later, Maria gave birth to their son, Charles Lennox Nelles who would later inherit The Manor.



On July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1814, a 31-year old widow Bingle (Maria Jane Waddell) married 51-year old widower Col. Robert Nelles. Together as husband and wife, they later hosted an “End of War Celebratory Ball” at their home, the Nelles Manor.

*A modern mural of this event may be seen on the west wall of the Grimsby Museum.*

It is my pleasure to invite you to a Victory Ball Celebration at Nelles Manor on Sunday, June 10th, 2018.

On June 4th, 1818, a Victory Ball was held at Nelles Manor as a belated celebration of the end of the War of 1812. The Ball has been chronicled in the Annals of the Forty and is an important part of Grimsby’s history, as the townspeople gathered on our front lawn to dance and celebrate their freedom in Upper Canada.

This year, we hope to commemorate the 200th anniversary of this historic event in our own small way. We are hosting a ticketed event at Nelles Manor which will run from 1:30-4:00pm and include the following:

Period-correct Refreshments.

Fiddle and Mandolin entertainment from local musicians Andrew Robichaud and Connor Schmidt.

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 2:00pm, at which point the Lincoln and Welland Regiment will be presenting their colours, followed by a short speech from Barry and Linda Coutts, the previous owners of Nelles Manor who donated the home in 2015. At the Ball in 1818, two of the Nelles women presented the colours of the 4th Lincoln Militia, of whom Robert Nelles was Lieutenant Colonel. For this reason, the ceremony is an important component of our celebration.

The Joseph Brant Museum will be providing a display with information about Brant and his life in Upper Canada. Colonel Robert Nelles and Joseph Brant were in close contact throughout the late 18th/early 19th centuries and have contributed substantially to the history of our area.

Guests can also take a complimentary tour around Nelles Manor and speak with knowledgeable tour guides who explain what life would have been like in 1818. There will be a few re-enactors wandering the grounds as well who would love to explain their military gear and historical knowledge.

The funds raised will go towards putting Nelles Manor on a sustainable financial path as a privately owned, volunteer-run museum.

Tickets are \$25/person and will be available by emailing [info@nellesmanor.ca](mailto:info@nellesmanor.ca) or leaving a message at 289-235-7755. Tickets are also available next door at the Grimsby Museum. If you have already contributed monetarily to our fundraising campaign this year, we have a special discounted rate of \$10/person for this event.

I hope to get an RSVP from you soon!

Sincerely,

Jessica Linzel  
Museum Manager