

War of 1812 Veterans Isaac Ferriss & William Hutchins Plaqued on Saturday May 23 2015

Ruth Hutchins Nicholson UE and Susan McCloskey Hutchins UE hosted a very successful event to recognize their ancestors Isaac Ferriss UE and William Hutchins in Harrow and Colchester this past Saturday. Approximately 70 people attended and came from as far away as Lindsay and Michigan. All were interested in the actual plaque and its history as well as the stories associated with the two veterans.



Bryce unveils plaque for Isaac Ferriss



Gwendolyn unveils the Wm Hutchins marker

All family members participated in the two unveilings that included presenting information on Loyalist John Cornwall, whose original lot 97 in the New Settlement is the land where the Hutchins Pioneer Cemetery is located. Heroic stories were shared about Isaac Ferriss, who as a 17 year old, swam across the Detroit River to spy on the Americans on Bois Blanc Island. He reported back to Major General Isaac Brock prior to the successful taking of Fort Detroit. William Hutchins, at age 65, was an experienced ship carpenter and sailor. Both he and Isaac were on the same pay list, from the Essex 1st Militia. We aren't clear on William's actions but knew of Isaac's through an article written in The Amherstburg Echo on September 2, 1934.



Hutchins Family at Pioneer Cemetery May 23 2015



Musket Salute to Isaac Ferriss by Mike, John & Jeremy

A reception followed at Paglioni's Estate Winery where everyone could meet and talk while they enjoyed the essence of the grape harvest in Essex County. It was a beautiful day and we feel we have inspired others to plaque their ancestors' graves in a similar fashion.

Ruth Nicholson UE

War of 1812 Veterans Honoured With Graveside Plaques



A group of descendants of Isaac Ferriss and William Hutchins, two men who served in the War of 1812, gathered in Harrow and Colchester last weekend to honour their ancestors by placing a War of 1812 grave marker at each of the men's grave sites. Pictured above are descendants of Isaac Ferriss.

by Heather Marentette

Two local men who took up the challenge of fighting for their country in the War of 1812 were finally honoured last week during a special heritage event held in Harrow and Colchester

South.

Hosted by sisters, Susan Hutchins McCloskey and Ruth Hutchins Nicholson, the event honoured Isaac Ferriss (1795-1881) and William Hutchins (1784-1832). Both of these men

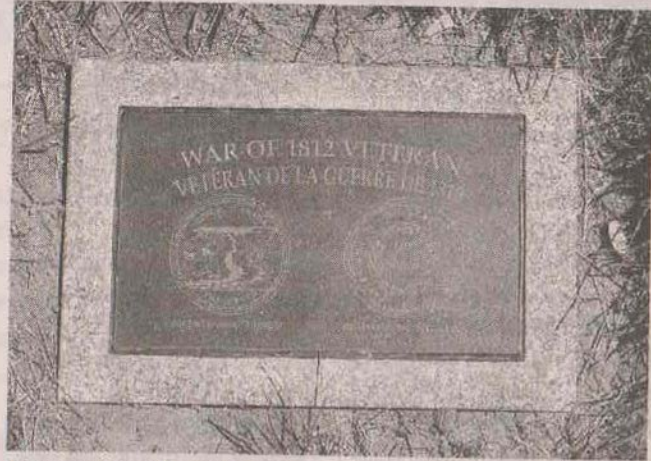
contributed to and survived the War of 1812 and their graves are marked in the local area. Ferriss' grave is located on the grounds of St. Andrew's Church in Harrow, the first stop last Saturday (continued on page 4)

1812 Plaquing: Harrow News

(continued from page 1)
during the celebration.
Hutchins grave is located at
the Hutchins' Pioneer
Cemetery in Colchester.

In an effort to honour both
of their ancestors,
McCloskey and Nicholson
recently applied to the
federal government's War of
1812 Veterans Graveside
Project. The Graveside
Recognition Program, which
is operated by a non-profit
group, was established to
ensure that War of 1812
veterans get the recognition
they deserve. The project
will also provide a database
of information on these 1812
veterans which at this time,
does not exist.

Prior to this, the graves of
veterans of the War of 1812
have never been recognized
nationally. Veterans were
also never issued the medals
which were originally
created for them but never
distributed. On these
graveside plaques, that
medal is now shown which
features a British lion
protecting a Canadian beaver
from an American eagle. It
also features the Niagara area



Plaques identifying the graves of two local men as War of 1812 veterans were unveiled last weekend at special ceremonies in both Harrow and Colchester. The veterans honoured were Isaac Ferriss and William Hutchins.

in the background.

According to McCloskey
and Nicholson, both Isaac
Ferriss and William Hutchins
served out of Fort Malden in
Amherstburg during the War
of 1812 as part of the Essex
First Militia. They served
under William Caldwell,
Colonel Matthew Elliott and
ultimately, Major General
Isaac Brock. After being
discharged from the military,
Ferriss even joined the
Caldwell Rangers; a group
made up of former British
soldiers, militia and Indian

allies who participated in
many battles and expedi-
tions.

Family members of Ferriss
and Hutchins who attended
the ceremonies to unveil
these new graveside plaques
said that by doing this, they
hoped to bring awareness to
the community about its War
of 1812 veterans. They also
hoped it would encourage
more research on the topic by
local groups and schools in
order to help ensure that the
War of 1812 and its veterans
are remembered.